

RISKS OF NATURAL BIRTH

The doctor who says Caesareans are better
PAGE 16

GOLF'S NEW SUPERSTAR

Alison Nicholas breaks new ground in America
PAGE 47

THE CASE FOR CULTURE

Why heritage is out for Chris Smith
PAGES 2, 20

HALF PRICE USA HOLIDAYS
TOKEN 2
PAGE 14

£1 million a year fat cat QCs attacked by Lord Chancellor



Irvine says lawyers' fee is deterring litigants

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS who earn £1 million in fees a year were lambasted by the Lord Chancellor last night as the main deterrent to people who use the courts rather than court fees they must pay.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the Lord Chancellor, told the House of Lords: "It is the fact that top lawyers in this country easily earn at least four times what top surgeons earn. The main deterrent on going to law is not court fees but the price at which lawyers value their own services and, so far, have succeeded in

charging." Any litigant who was represented by a lawyer would pay legal fees "vastly in excess of the modest court fees," he said. "It is the fact that there are a significant number of QCs who earn a million pounds per annum and many who would describe half a million pounds in one year as representing a very bad year for them."

"To say that court fees act as a deterrent to litigants is rather like arguing that people are deterred from buying a new motor car by an increase in vehicle excise duty."

Lord Irvine, who until his appointment to the Government was himself a top-earning commercial

silk, acknowledged that his comments "might bear comparison with the conversion of St Paul". But that meant he was in a good position to know the facts and these "should not be suppressed".

He added that many lawyers earned fair and reasonable incomes from criminal legal aid. But the overall cost to the public purse of big criminal cases was far too high. "We are not talking expressly about criminal litigation today, but it is a staggering fact that of the total criminal legal aid budget of £566 million, the top 1 per cent of criminal cases consume 24 per cent of the total expenditure."

The Lord Chancellor was responding in the Lords to a question from Lord Ackner, the former law lord, as to what action the Government proposed to take to "protect the constitutional rights of access of a litigant of modest means from the impact of new and increased court fees".

He questioned whether it was right to suggest that court fees, one of the smallest components in the overall litigation bill, was a deterrent. "Fat cat lawyers railing at the inequity of court fees do not attract the sympathy of the public." The increases, which came into force in January, substantially put up civil

court fees and brought in some new fees. The Bar, Law Society and Legal Action Group have criticised the rises which are aimed at recovering an extra £30 million a year, bringing the total annual fee income to £310 million — virtually the entire cost of running the civil courts.

Yesterday Lord Irvine ruled out scrapping the system of charging fees to litigants in the courts, insisting that citizens do not have "a constitutional right to a free court system."

A dozen QCs, chiefly at the commercial bar, who have been listed as among those estimated to

have earned £1 million a year include Michael Beloff, George Carman, Christopher Clarke, Anthony Gribbler, Sydney Kentridge, Gordon Pollock, Peter Scott and Jonathan Sumption. There is also what Lord Irvine called "a significant number" who must earn near that figure.

Lord Irvine himself worked partly at the commercial bar, where fees are highest, and partly at the employment and administrative law bar. He is unlikely to have been among the band earning £1 million year. As a successful barrister, his earnings will have topped £500,000 a year.

Church plans inquiry on gay priests

BY RUTH GLEHILL AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday paved the way for the ordination of practising homosexuals as Church of England priests, even though he spoke out fiercely against all sexual relationships outside marriage.

Dr George Carey told the General Synod that an international commission, similar to that which examined the issue of women priests, could be set up next year to consider "the entire area of human sexuality". Traditionalists said that was bound to lead eventually to the acceptance of homosexual priests and even the sanctioning of gay and lesbian marriages.

Dr Carey's announcement came as the Government said that it would continue to resist European moves to end the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces, although it is likely to accept that the age of consent for homosexuals should be reduced to 16.

The Synod, discussing the question of homosexual priests for the first time in a decade, was told that the next Lambeth Conference — the ten-yearly meeting of the world's heads of the Anglican communion — in July would decide whether a commission should be set up to consider the issue.

If it were, the commission would be along the lines of the Eames Commission on the ordination of women which sat in 1988 and 1989. That was seen by many as having opened the door to women priests and yesterday the Lambeth Commission spokesman, Jim Rosenthal, said that the commission would be of the highest calibre. "It is the most serious way of dealing with an urgent topic like this. Gay

clergy are already being ordained in the churches. The commission will pave the way to an intelligent, international debate."

But the Rev Stephen Trotter of the Church of Scotland group said: "The floodgates have just been opened. The debate will be seen as an amber light here, and as a green light in America, where the church is discussing the issue next week. The commission will be an interim stage to an inevitable end."

The Synod debate came amid growing pressure from activists in America and England, who are pushing for the ordination of homosexuals and the acceptance of same-sex marriages — even though both are strongly opposed by churches in the developing world and elsewhere. The Synod commended for discussion a bishops' document which rules out homosexual relationships for clergy, but accepts them in some circumstances among the laity.

The Government has meanwhile agreed to reconsider the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces within the next five years. Although it has made no commitment to changing the stance, it may have to if the European Court of Human Rights rules against it in September.

John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, voted for the ban when the Commons last discussed it, and is understood to share the strong feelings of Service chiefs that it should remain. Tony Blair and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, abstained on that occasion.

Ministers insisted yesterday that there was no link between the Government's signal that

the age of consent law could be changed and the ban on gays in the Forces. "The situations are entirely different and in September we will make a submission to the court explaining why we have taken the position we have," a senior government source said.

The Government confirmed that it was bowing to the inevitability of defeat in two other cases before the human rights court in which Britain is accused of discrimination in having different ages of consent for homosexuals and heterosexuals.

It is seeking an out-of-court settlement, a part of which will be a promise to allow a free vote in the Commons on changing the law. That seems certain to get a substantial majority, although it could be 18 months before the law is changed.

When it was last debated in 1994, a move to equalise the age of consent for heterosexuals and homosexuals was defeated by only 27 votes. William Hague, the Tory leader, and three other members of the Shadow Cabinet members voted for the lower age.

Ministers accepted the irony yesterday of indications of a liberalisation in the law on gay sex at the same time as it was considering toughening the law on buying cigarettes.

But Downing Street insisted that trying to cut deaths caused by smoking by possibly raising the minimum age for buying cigarettes from 16 to 18, while allowing a free vote on lowering the age of consent for homosexuals were "utterly different issues".

Vietnam veterans, page 6
Roger Scruton, page 20
Letters, page 21

'Beef smuggling' plants shut down

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND POLLY NEWTON

TWO meat plants suspected of being part of an international smuggling ring shipping British beef to Europe have been closed down, the Government said last night. Such shipments would be in defiance of a worldwide export ban.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said he had ordered the two companies to stop operations immediately as a result of a joint investigation with the European Commission's anti-fraud unit. The companies are thought to be a cold store in Stoke-on-Trent and a meat-cutting plant at Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire.

The announcement came as Dr Cunningham prepared to appear before a committee of the European Parliament in Strasbourg today to explain how hundreds of tonnes of British beef reached the Continent falsely labelled as being from Belgium.

The European Commission imposed the beef embargo nearly 16 months ago after the disclosure that ten British victims of a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease probably developed the fatal brain condition after eating beef infected with BSE, or "mad cow" disease.

Dr Cunningham said: "Operations of this kind involve risks to the public. I am determined to crack down hard on anyone who runs risks with public safety."

He later told ITN: "We have uncovered very poor hygiene standards... and a whole number of other completely unsatisfactory activities."

The European Commission said yesterday that two Belgian companies had had their trading licences suspended after being accused of relabelling British beef.



Darcy Russell, who closed last night's gala, rehearses with Igor Zelensky

Covent Garden farewell for three audiences

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND DALYA ALBERGE

THE curtain came down on the Royal Opera House last night with a farewell gala featuring some of its biggest stars of recent years.

Plácido Domingo, Felicity Lott and Darcy Russell were among those who put in star turns in front of three separate audiences simultaneously as the House prepared to close for a £214 million redevelopment.

Inside, anyone who was anyone was there. Baroness Thatcher and William Hague were there, though not together. So were all the previous ministers of arts or heritage or fun, depending on what their titles were in their day.

The sheer number of them — Chris Smith, Virginia Bottomley, Paul Channon, Richard Luce, David Mellor, Timothy Renton and Peter Brook — was a reminder of why we need a new, enlarged opera house. They were among the quarter of the 2,100-strong audience who did not have to pay for their seats. This was the opera house's way of saying thank-you to artists, sponsors and supporters.

The Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret were guests of honour, and millions watched on television, but the most appreciative audience

was outside in the Covent Garden piazza where thousands were packed shoulder-to-shoulder to watch a live relay of the evening on a giant screen.

The gala marked the end of an era. But that era will live on for the many who have snapped up fixtures and furnishings as souvenirs.

Even as champagne glasses were being drained at the post-gala party, workers were moving in to start ripping out the seats in the auditorium. Very little, though, will be thrown away. Even signs directing the way to the "gents" have been eagerly sought after

by those seeking a memento.

"Everything that could be sold will be sold and we have taken sealed bids," said Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs.

But what doesn't go we are looking at distributing charitably. A sizeable expanse of red carpet is going to the Covent Garden Community Centre and a school in Kent. Many of the seats are earmarked for church halls and a community theatre.

But those who fancy a seat from the stalls in a corner of their living room can have one for £25, if there are any left after last night.

Some of the most competitive souvenir hunting has already taken place with the discreet removal of many of the embroidered numbers from favourite seats.

Among the highlights of last night's gala were Plácido Domingo singing the death scene from *Othello* and Felicity Lott in Act 3 of Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*. Bernard Haitink, the House's current musical director and Sir Georg Solti and Colin Davis, were among those who conducted.

Tracie Andrews tells of night her fiancé died

BY JOANNA BAILE

TRACIE ANDREWS yesterday described in detail how a "porky man with big staring eyes" killed her fiancé in a road rage attack.

In her first day in the witness box at Birmingham Crown Court, where she is on trial for murder, Miss Andrews told how she and Lee Harvey had spent the evening at a pub in Bromsgrove.

On the way home, she said, she was looking for a cassette in the glove compartment of Mr Harvey's Ford Escort when the car swerved slightly and Mr Harvey swore. She said: "Lee said 'I think they want to rape'. When the car came up at the side of us, Lee was doing gestures with his hand and I saw the passenger making gestures with his hand." According to Miss Andrews, the car overtook them and stopped on Coopers Hill, a few minutes from their home in Alvechurch. Mr Harvey stopped.

Miss Andrews told the court: "The driver of the vehicle got out of that car and so did Lee... I told Lee to get in the car and to leave it, and that he was nearly home."

She said the lane was "pitch

black", but she could see the two men prodding each other. "I heard Lee say 'What's your problem? You think you are Nigel Mansell.' There was swearing going on and prodding with fingers."

The driver then went back to his car and the passenger got out and came towards Mr Harvey. "I heard swearing and I heard the passenger call Lee a 'Paki bastard' (due to his dark skin). I saw the passenger strike out at Lee, I could not be sure how many times, but it was more than once. Lee fell down onto the floor and then that's when I got out of the car."

The passenger was crouching over Mr Harvey, but she could see no weapon. She swore at the man and he punched her in the face.

"He called me a slut and he punched me in the face. He hit me really hard and straight away I fell. I remember tripping over Lee as I fell. I put my hands out and I banged my head on the road."

All she could remember, she said, was the driver shouting "Leave it, Jer" to the passenger — a "porky" man with staring eyes.

Continued on page 3, col 1

directors self employed

FINDING A MORTGAGE if you are self employed or a director of your own company can be a frustrating experience. Many lenders will request three years full audited accounts before an application is even considered, whilst others now refuse such applications completely.

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Usual suspects show why their radio days may be numbered

Were ministers aware, asked a creature in red socks and jacket the colour of a jacaranda tree in full bloom, that "a year ago at Basille Day, British warplanes flew down the Champs Elysées to salute those New Labour values: liberty, equality and fraternity?" For Denis MacShane (Lab, Rotherham) this was an uncharacteristically restrained remark, modest to the point of bashfulness.

Mr MacShane is one of nature's irrepressibles. Clever, rude and showy, he delights in riling Tories and unnerving his own side. Subtracted from an underrated Gerald Kaufman the hidden seriousness, and you have the measure of MacShane. That — a self-proclaimed socialist — he once lived in Geneva in what envious colleagues assume to be some style, as a high-ranking trade union official, does little to endear this Government backbencher to the benches opposite.

Tall and thin with gold-rimmed spectacles and a penetrating voice, Mr MacShane is not so much showily as randomly dressed. For every occasion on which a blue jacket coincides with mustard socks there may be one on which khaki trousers coincide with a puce tie. He loves to leave his audience winded by his effrontery and his boyish sense of mischief, if not widely loved, is not unloved. Beyond infuriating the Tories with his Question yesterday, it was not clear what might be his point.

Later MacShane intervened with evident purpose: to support David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) and Sir Patrick Cormack (deputy to the Shadow Leader of the House) in a plea to Madam Speaker to save the BBC Radio 4's *Yesterday in Parliament* — apparently under threat.

David Winnick is one of those MPs we will miss when they are gone, but who require a measure of forbearance while they are still here. A mosquito-MP with the whine of a supercharged moped crossing a bridge, a good man, an independent spirit and a brave speaker, he is... well, a bit of a pain.

And he does go on a bit. At Points of Order he allowed the Chamber to share his bafflement that the BBC should regard MPs' speeches as a turn-off. Why ever might radio audiences not want to listen to the Commons? he demanded.

There is an answer to Mr Winnick's question but I cannot think of any polite way of expressing it. Sir Patrick Cormack rose in his support. Sir Patrick rises not as other do, but as a generous jam sponge rises.

If Winnick is a mosquito, Sir Patrick is a bumble-bee. Ponderous and orotund, he hums from Question to Question sucking what nectar he can find (especially concerning the ancient Rights and Privileges of the House) and gurgling on it. Sir Patrick saw no reason to curtail the broadcasting of MPs.

Again, we are on the point of suggesting one — but think better of it, being rather fond of Sir Patrick, lapse into a respectful silence.

Third up was Denis MacShane. It is painful to report what he said. He said the value of *Yesterday in Parliament* was that it brings the nation the real thing, "unfiltered by commentators and (my italics) 'sketchboys'".

Task force of the talents will seek culture of success

By DALYA ALBERGE AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE Prime Minister has recruited the entrepreneur Richard Branson and the film producer Sir David Puttnam to a high-profile "task force" as part of the drive to modernise the former Department of National Heritage.

The task force, announced yesterday as Tony Blair launched the renamed Department for Culture, Media and Sport, will provide a link between government departments and tackle issues handled by each of them. The initiative, acknowledges that an industry worth £50 billion a year in the 1990s can be dramatically expanded for the next century.

Through the task force, the Prime Minister wants a united attack on problems encountered by the creative sector. A government spokeswoman said: "The Inter-Departmental Creative Industries Taskforce will aim to improve economic performance in this area." Its membership will also include Alan McGee, founder of Creation Records, Paul Smith, the designer, Gail Rebeck, Random House UK chairman and chief executive, Eric Salama, main Board Director of WPP, and Janice Hughes, of Spectrum Strategies Consultants.

A spokesman said: "The calibre of people speaks for itself. The fact that we've got the Paul Smiths and the Alan McGees, as well as more familiar names, is indicative of the seriousness with which they take it."

The committee will be chaired by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Writing in *The Times* today, he says: "These are people who understand how to build and develop creative businesses. Cultural and leisure activities are of growing significance. Not only to individuals: they are also of rapidly growing economic importance. They are the basic fuel of our hugely successful international tourist industry, and the heart of a series of activities in which Britain is genuinely a world leader. Cool Britannia is here to stay."

The team will study, for example, the workings of the Department of Trade and Industry, which covers issues such as intellectual property, and the Department for Employment where it affects the creative workforce. They will identify barriers to their activities such as problems with another international trade body, or technological developments held back in intellectual-property disputes. The committee will show ways in which the Government can encourage the climate for these industries to thrive.

Sir David Puttnam noted how individual films had been split between the former Heritage Department, the DTI and the Home Office at various moments during their lives: "This allows the gaps to be

closed up. If you want to drive the economy, you need coherence between departments that hasn't existed in the past."

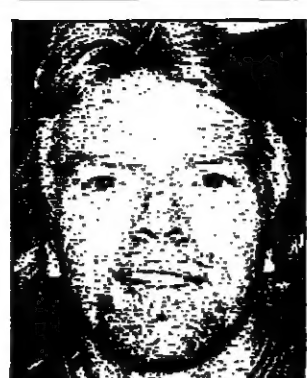
Alan McGee, whose Creation Records is the record company for Oasis, said: "For the first time ever, the British government has had the foresight to involve creative people in the key decisions affecting industries whose contribution to the country both financially and culturally is often underestimated."

Eric Salama, 36, main board director of WPP, said of the task force: "We are a collection of people, all of whom are involved in creative businesses. WPP is a huge employer in the UK and the largest marketing services company in the world. It was probably thought our experience would be beneficial."

Ms Rebeck said: "I am extremely encouraged that culture has been recognized as a significant contributor to the creative economy. There is a wealth of creative talent, but not enough resources to bring that to the fore. A vibrant creative industry can offer jobs. I'm looking forward to it."

The first meeting takes place in September. Paul Smith, Britain's leading menswear designer with an annual turnover of £160 million, who once summed up his design philosophy as "serious suits with silly socks", was on holiday in France yesterday. His office in London issued a statement for him, saying that he had been campaigning for four years for recognition of design as a vital component in the development of British industry.

Arts, pages 18, 19
Chris Smith, page 20
Leading article, page 21



RICHARD BRANSON, 46: multimillionaire entrepreneur. Said to see himself as one of a team contributing ideas to an industry providing many of Britain's most successful exports.



SIR DAVID PUTTNAM, 56: film producer, chairman of Enigma Productions. Won Oscar for *Chariots of Fire* and produced *The Killing Fields*. Always keen to take on role under Mr Blair.



ALAN MCGEE, 37: former British retail storeman who founded Creation Records with £2,000 loan in 1987 and discovered Oasis. Gave Labour £50,000 to boost their Scottish campaign.



GAIL REBECK, 45: chairman and chief executive of Random House UK, responsible for 30 individual publishing houses. Started in children's books as a production assistant.



ERIC SALAMA, 36: main board director of WPP, the leading marketing services organisation whose brands include Ogilvy and Mather. Economics graduate from Trinity College, Oxford.



PAUL SMITH, 51: leading menswear designer. Made Royal Designer for Industry (1991) and CBE (1994). Clients include Michael Palin, David Hockney, David Bowie and Calvin Klein.

Mowlam admits to new Sinn Fein talks

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, admitted yesterday that the Government has resumed contacts with Sinn Fein. Ministers had previously made categorical assurances that contact was broken off after IRA gunmen shot dead two RUC officers on June 16.

During a phone-in programme on BBC Radio Ulster, Dr Mowlam said that civil servants had written to Sinn Fein and spoken to party leaders on the telephone after republicans contacted the Northern Ireland Office. Her remarks came after *The Irish Times* revealed the exchanges with Sinn Fein.

Unionists reacted furiously yesterday to the new contacts, with one MP claiming that the Government was "determined to do a deal with gunmen". In yesterday's radio phone-in, Dr Mowlam said she understood the anger about the contacts, but she defended the exchanges. She said: "On one level it is very difficult to justify when you outline the violence that they have carried out — all equally appalling and equally unacceptable."

However, Dr Mowlam said the new contact was designed to clarify a number of issues for Sinn Fein in the hope that the IRA would restore its ceasefire. "Tony Blair and I have made clear all along that Sinn Fein cannot give any excuse that we haven't clarified our position. We are not negotiating but if Sinn Fein genuinely want clarification — and my officials said they did — then that would happen."

It is understood that a senior official of the Northern Ireland Office wrote to Sinn Fein last week to confirm a series of telephone conversations with the party during the last week of June and the first week of July.

Trust looks to mobile theatres to cut lists

A mobile operating theatre, similar to one used by the British Army in Bosnia, could soon be in use to cut hospital waiting lists and save patients making long journeys to regional surgical units.

A civilian version of the French-designed unit, which fits on the back of a lorry, would be set up in car parks of small country hospitals where it would be able to handle day-surgery cases. A decision will be made later on whether to commission a working trial of the £400,000 unit. A prototype impressed surgeons and officials of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Deal in Kent, who were keen to start trials. The idea was proposed by Thanet NHS Trust.

Hunt ruling deferred

Deer hunters and farmers launched a High Court challenge over the decision of the National Trust to ban slaughtering on its landholdings on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills. Their counsel condemned the ban as "peremptory, unfair and invalid" and asked for leave to apply for the first judicial review of trust policy in legal history. Reserving judgment after a day-long hearing, Mr Justice Tucker said the issues raised were "important and far-reaching", involving difficult points of law which he needed more time to consider. He hoped to reach a verdict later this week.

Direct sale clampdown

Regulations to protect children from junk mail and "cold" telephone calls from salesmen were announced yesterday. The new code of practice drawn up by the Direct Marketing Association states that advertisements should not prey on children by offering goods they cannot afford or promote "unhealthy or unwise behaviour" in minors. Also, salesmen must not ring children at home "mining" for information about themselves or their parents. The new rules say that calls to homes must be between 8am and 9pm and cannot be made on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Crash relatives 'in dark'

The father of Duncan Jones one of the boys hurt when a helicopter crashed at Glamis Castle in Scotland, yesterday accused the organisers, the Noel Edmonds charity, Airborne, of keeping relatives waiting for over an hour before telling them of the accident in which Gary Malley, 9, right, was killed. Steven Jones said parents were told all was well when the helicopter had already come down.



Porn case dropped

The owner of a company that publishes the soft-porn magazine *Hunter* yesterday walked free from Southwark Crown Court after no evidence was offered against him. Jonan Theron, from Johannesburg, Stuart Cayley, 47, a video distributor, of West Norwood, southeast London, and James Brown, 30, of Hornsey, north London, had denied seven counts of evading the prohibition on the importation of goods. Five counts of possessing indecent videos for publication with a view to gain were also dropped.

M4 rapist dead in cell

The Prison Service launched an inquiry yesterday after John Steed, the M4 rapist and killer, was found hanging in his cell. Prison staff found Steed, 34, who was in the eleventh year of a life sentence, hanging from the bars of his cell at Foll Station jail near York early on Sunday. The spokesman said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of Steed, from Penze, southeast London, who was jailed after he admitted a string of sex attacks and killing Jacqueline Murray, 23, a Mayfair prostitute.

Spanish skipper fined

A Spanish trawler skipper was fined £15,000 for under-reporting the ship's catch of seven tonnes of hake and haddock while fishing in British waters. Magistrates at Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, also ordered Alberto Diez Perez, captain of the San Sebastian-registered *Alay-Alde*, to pay £1,275 in legal costs. He had fish worth £3,070 confiscated. His 35-metre boat, with a crew of 18, was stopped by the Royal Navy in the Western Approaches about 200 miles off Cornwall at the weekend.

Bland to continue as swim commentator

By DOMINIC KENNEDY AND CRAIG LORD

HAMILTON BLAND, the BBC's "voice of swimming", will commentate on the next major international event despite two official inquiries into his business connections.

Mr Bland's potential conflict of interest over the distribution of National Lottery money to swimming pools is being investigated by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Amateur Swimming Association.

Mr Bland's lawyers and the BBC said yesterday that he was scheduled to cover the European Championships in Seville in mid-August. The ASA's inquiry is due to be completed by August 30.

The *Times* and Granada TV's *World in Action* yesterday disclosed that while Mr Bland has an official role with the ASA recommending which pools should receive lottery help, he also has a profitable business as a consultant to those who want to secure lottery funding.

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said there were alarming implications if *The Times*'s allegations were true. He wanted a rapid inquiry.

The BBC press office described the allegations as a private matter between Mr Bland and the ASA. "It's not actually related to BBC work, is it?" a spokeswoman said. Mr Bland became the BBC's main swimming commentator in 1990.

Watchdog to check Camelot's accounts

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CAMELOT will have its accounts checked and will be fined if it breaches its licence under plans being drawn up by the Government to tighten National Lottery regulation.

Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has approved demands from the Commons public accounts committee for the National Audit Office to be given limited access to Camelot's books.

The Treasury will also publish a "minute of understanding" this month which will enable Peter Davis, director-general of Oflot, the lottery regulator, to fine Camelot if it breaches its licence. Last month, at Oflot's annual report, Mr Davis pleaded for more "teeth" in his role. He said he could apply for an injunction in extreme breaches but in most cases had to rely on persuasion.

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, is expected to announce the new proposals this month as part of his general review of the lottery's operation. He has already pledged to instigate a non-profit-making lottery but is understood to have accepted that no operator would agree to run it entirely without profit.

The National Audit Office wants the power to check the flow of money from retailers through Camelot's accounts to the National Lottery Distribution Fund. These checks have not been extended to a regulated private company before.

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Andrews takes stand to deny murdering fiancé

Joanna Bale hears her account of a 'loving but stormy' relationship that led to abortion

TRACIE ANDREWS spent her first day on the witness stand yesterday protesting her innocence in the roadside murder of her fiancé, Lee Harvey.

Miss Andrews, 28, said she loved Mr Harvey despite their stormy relationship and planned to marry him. Regarding his murder, she said she wanted to return to the court one day to "see the person that did this". Repeatedly accused by the prosecution of lying, Miss Andrews remained composed throughout her five hours of evidence and insisted that Mr Harvey had been stabbed in a road rage incident.

Her defence counsel, Ronald Thwaites, QC, opened dramatically at Birmingham Crown Court with the question: "Did you kill Lee Harvey?" In a soft Midlands accent, she replied: "No I did not."

Mr Thwaites then asked: "Did you want him dead?" Again, she said: "No I did not."

Mr Thwaites went on: "From the moment your relationship began to the day he died, did you want any other man?" Miss Andrews: "No, never."

Mr Thwaites: "Were you faithful or unfaithful to him?" Miss Andrews: "I was faithful."

Mr Thwaites: "Since his

death on December 1 last year, have you formed any other relationship of a romantic or sexual kind with anyone else?" Miss Andrews: "No, not at all."

Mr Thwaites: "Did you have any form of breakdown yourself following his death?" Miss Andrews: "Yes, I did... I attempted to take my own life. I felt I had no future left. I loved Lee more than anything else in the world and I did not want to live without him."

Mr Thwaites: "Did you really intend to kill yourself?" Miss Andrews: "Yes."

She went on to describe how she had taken a mixture of 200 tablets and still had suicidal thoughts "from time to time". When asked by Mr Thwaites what gave rise to those thoughts, she said: "The reason I don't want to be here is because I feel I have no future."

Mr Thwaites: "What if anything has given you the strength to carry on?" Miss Andrews: "When I look at my little girl, I am her mother." Pointing at the public gallery, she said: "I want to come here one day. I want to sit there and I want to see the person that did this."

She visibly relaxed and oc-

asionally smiled as she answered questions about her family background and schooldays. The court was told that Miss Andrews has no criminal convictions. She was born and brought up in Hereford and Worcester. Her parents separated when she was young and she was brought up by her mother and stepfather, with her brother and sister and several half siblings. At primary school in Alvechurch she joined the

church youth club and sang in the choir. While at comprehensive school, she did voluntary work with handicapped children and the elderly, and passed six GCSEs.

She wanted to be a nurse, but after joining a YTS scheme in which she nursed the elderly, decided she was not suited to it. She explained: "I knew that I didn't have a career as a nurse. I used to get very upset when the patients became ill."

At the age of 17 she left home and went to live with her brother. She worked as a promotions girl, selling perfume, make-up and hair products. She had become pregnant at the age of 21 by her first serious boyfriend, Andrew Tilston, to whom she became engaged. Her daughter, Karla, celebrated her seventh birthday on Sunday.

Their relationship had deteriorated due to his heavy drinking and the fact that he went on holiday with friends just before she was about to have the baby. She had left Mr Tilston on her 22nd birthday and gone to live with her mother. After gaining custody of Karla, she told the court, she moved into a council flat in Alvechurch in early 1993, near her mother's home. She met Mr Harvey in October 1994 and he moved in with her three months later.

Recalling her meeting with Mr Harvey in 1994, she said: "The relationship developed into something serious within weeks." She added: "I would describe it as very very loving and stormy at times."

Mr Thwaites asked: "What was it about either you or Lee that made it stormy?" Miss Andrews: "There was a lot of

insecurity in the relationship, on both sides." She went on: "We both had a temper. Lee showed his temper very quickly and a lot more than I did."

They had become engaged in May 1995 and set a date for their wedding, which was to have been in June this year. At one point Mr Thwaites asked Miss Andrews to show the jury her rings and the size of her hands. Miss Andrews stepped out of the witness box and walked slowly along the jury with both hands outstretched, looking each one in the eye.

When she became pregnant, Mr Harvey was "really happy" at first, she said. But during one argument, he pushed her against a door and she hurt herself. They split up and she decided to have an abortion at 16 weeks without telling him. When she eventually told him "he told me that he blamed himself. If he had treated me a lot better then I never would have done that."

The couple reunited, but the abortion had caused Miss Andrews to lose 2½ stone in weight which made her flat-chested. Mr Harvey persuaded her to have breast implants and paid for them as a Christmas gift. "I said he should accept me for what I am and also it was a lot of money, but I wanted to feel more confident for him."



Tracie Andrews arriving to give evidence at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday

I loved Lee more than anything else and I did not want to live without him



The night Lee Harvey died

Continued from page 1

eyes. He walked back to the car and they drove off.

Mr Harvey was by then breathing strangely and she realised she was covered in his blood after kneeling down to see how he was and cuddling him, she said.

She knew there was a house nearby to which she could have gone for help, she said. "I got up a few times. I went over to the car but I didn't know what to do. I was in a really bad way myself."

Asked by Mr Thwaites why

some of her hair was found in Mr Harvey's hand, she said she had not remembered him pulling it. It was "very usual" for her hair to fall out because it was in bad condition from being bleached.

Cross-examining Miss Andrews, David Crigman QC accused her of lying about the route they took back from the pub - after two witnesses claimed to have seen their car near the murder scene without another car following it.

Mr Crigman said: "This car was a phantom. It doesn't exist, does it?" She replied quietly: "It does."

Mr Crigman challenged Miss Andrews to admit that a fly on the windscreen that Sunday would have heard the couple having a fierce argument in the car which had caused Mr Harvey to miss a turning. He said: "Your relationship was always on the edge of some kind of explosion wasn't it?"

"Not always, no." Mr Crigman went on: "It was at the heart of this case that you and he had a relationship that sooner or later erupted in increasing levels of seriousness."

She replied: "No."

Professor 'indecently assaulted students'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A UNIVERSITY professor was said yesterday to have indecently assaulted two women students he met at a university garden party after asking them if they were familiar with the works of the Marquis de Sade.

Professor John Cottingham, 53, who has taught philosophy at Reading University for 25 years, had gone with the two young women to his university office, where he joked that he usually carried a cane. He then asked them if they liked being tied up before trying to kiss them and remove their clothing, Reading Crown Court was told.

The "petrified" students, then 21 and 23, had fled the room to get help and Professor Cottingham was later arrested, Simon Draycott, for the prosecution, said. But the professor had told police that he

had been forced to ask the women to leave his room when one of them started to perform a striptease and told him they both liked to experiment sexually.

"Professor Cottingham told a series of lies to the police to try and avoid the consequences of his actions," Mr Draycott said.

The jury was told that the two women and the professor had fallen into conversation at the university garden party in July last year.

One of the students, Miss X, told the court that she and her friend had agreed to leave the party with the professor and had accepted a lift in his car towards the university bar.

When he said he had to go to his office to pick up some books they had agreed to go with him to get some of his cigarettes as they had run out,

she said. They were looking at one of his unfinished manuscripts when the conversation turned to the Marquis de Sade, whom they had also discussed at the garden party.

"It still sounded as if we were talking academically but then, I don't know if he was being sarcastic, but he said: 'I usually carry my cane around with me.' I was a little thrown," Miss X said.

Then he asked what were the boundaries of pain you would accept. I didn't think he meant personally. I said: 'I don't know, maybe tied up, if I had to.' At that point he got down on the floor and asked us: 'Would you care to join me?' I didn't have time to respond because he came up and put his lips on my mouth."

The student, an American now 22, said the professor then came up behind her and unzipped her dress so it fell down her arms, before turning to her friend and unbuttoning her cardigan. "He got on the floor and started touching my leg, saying: 'I much prefer women's bottoms to their tops anyway.'"

Asked by Sandra Stanfield, for the defence, why she had not apparently attempted to fight off Professor Cottingham's alleged advances, she replied: "I was shocked. I thought the door was locked."

Professor Cottingham denies two charges of indecent assault. The case continues.



Professor Cottingham and his wife outside court

Singer makes home run

By NEIL GRAVES

A SINGER sold his £150,000 house to finance his own album, Michael Strassen, who has appeared in West End shows such as *Les Misérables*, said: "I put everything into this."

He now rents a two-bedroom Wandsworth flat while hoping for success for *Loving You*, which contains such standards as *Autumn Leaves*, *Alfie* and *Of Man River*. It has cost him £85,000 to hire a studio and for recording, £27,000 for musicians, £15,000

for production, £13,000 for marketing and £10,000 for pressing and distribution under the Silver Sounds label.

Strassen, 31, said: "It's only bricks and mortar. I wanted adventure and some movement in my life. I aspire to join people like Sinatra and Tony Bennett."

"If the album works out, I'll buy another house. If not, I'll keep on slogging and renting."

Loving You will reach limited outlets at record chains on Monday, after selling 1,300 copies in six weeks at Dress

Circle, a West End record shop specialising in musical theatre.

Michael Nelligan, the manager, said: "He's probably one of our fastest-selling male vocalists. A lot of these West End people do albums. Some sell, others don't."

Part of the success can be credited to the £13,000 spent on marketing, some of which went on promotions and clothing. Mr Nelligan said: "The cover has a nice sexy pose. People see the poster and say they want to listen to him."

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Tired parents blamed for increase in shy children

Work restricts talking to 8 minutes a day, reports Simon de Bruxelles

THE number of children handicapped by shyness is increasing because their parents no longer have time to talk to them, a conference was told yesterday.

The average amount of time working parents spend talking to their offspring is just eight minutes a day, according to research presented to the British Psychological Society. Philip Zimbardo, an American psychologist, said children should spend an hour in the company of other people for every hour they spent sitting in front of the television. He said: "If they don't do this they will not acquire social skills to enable them to relate to people."

Seventy researchers from around the world are attend-

ing the four-day seminar at Cardiff University, which is investigating why the number of people who consider themselves shy has increased by 20 per cent over the last 15 years. Studies in the early 1970s showed that 40 per cent of adults felt that shyness was affecting their behaviour. But studies taken in the past 12 months show it has risen to between 55 and 64 per cent.

Mothers and fathers are neglecting their children because they are too involved in their busy lives, according to Professor Zimbardo, of Stanford University. He told

the meeting: "It is very alarming because we don't really know where it is going to end. It is a terrible indictment of society that children are given so little time by their parents."

"My studies have shown that mothers and fathers spend just eight minutes talking to their children but it isn't even meaningful talk — it is mostly the parents giving commands to their children."

He added: "The nightmare of the 1984 novel was Big Brother watching over everyone. But with children now it is a case of nobody watching over them."

they don't, children are going to spend more and more of their time alone in their bedrooms. Members of the family don't sit down for meals together because the parents are too exhausted.

"This neglect comes at a vital time in their lives. Most children become shy when they reach adolescence, between 11 and 14. These are the years when they need most help from their parents, but they are not getting it. The children don't need other people and become more and more shy."

He added: "The nightmare of the 1984 novel was Big Brother watching over everyone. But with children now it is a case of nobody watching over them."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Injured man held over deaths

Police have arrested a man in hospital suffering from severe head injuries in connection with the bludgeoning to death of an elderly couple and their son.

The dead couple, Garib Chand and his wife Swani Kaur, in their late 60s, lived with their son, Harkesh Kumar, 40. Another brother and his family also lived there. A relative had rung the bell at the home in Handsworth, Birmingham, and was eventually answered by an injured man. The couple, who had eight sons and two daughters, were described by neighbours as "respectable and proud".

ME payout

A sacked health visitor has become the first person with the chronic fatigue syndrome (ME) to receive compensation under the Disability Discrimination Act. Alison Schanz, 31, accepted £16,000 from Herefordshire Community NHS Trust out of court.

Vigilante thief

A man who broke into a suspected child molester's empty home to help to secure him away was jailed for three months. Stuart Bell, 21, stole dishes and cutlery as part of a group clearing belongings from the house at Raploch, Stirling. Bell has 13 previous court appearances.

Driver sentenced

A youth who drove 500 yards with a woman trapped under his car has been sent to a young offenders' institution for two years. Mark McCurdy, 17, of Ely, Cardiff, hit Pat Thomas, 66, also of Ely. He pleaded guilty at Swansea Crown Court to causing death by dangerous driving.

Lightning strike

Forty-five people were struck by lightning as they sheltered from a thunderstorm at a country music festival in Haverrill, Suffolk. Five were treated in hospital but not detained. Police believe there were so few injuries because energy from the strike was dissipated through the crowd.

Mean single

D'You Know What I Mean by Oasis sold 370,000 copies in its first week, the fastest-selling single this year, going to No 1 in the charts. It will be performed live on Top of the Pops on Friday. The highest first-week sale was Band Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas, which sold 750,000 copies.

Caught short

Police called to investigate reports of underage driving at a supermarket car park in Arundel, West Sussex, found the drivers were jockeys from a nearby racehorse stables. One 17-year-old stable lad said: "We are short and people do mistake us for younger people sometimes."



Roberta Jones leaves Maidstone Prison yesterday after marrying Reggie Kray, the former gangland boss, at Maidstone prison. Kray, 63, married Miss Jones, 38, in the prison chapel followed by an alcohol-free reception attended by a handful of friends and relatives. Mark Goldstein, Kray's solicitor, said outside the prison gate: "Mr Kray and Miss Jones wish to thank their family and friends for their love and support and look forward to

Kray weds in prison chapel

the time when Reggie is released and they can spend the rest of their lives together." The bride, wearing an ankle-length ivory beaded dress, arrived at the visitors' gate of the prison early in the

afternoon, driven in a black Jeep by a female friend. Other relatives gathered in the pub across the road where flowers were delivered, including a bouquet from Reggie's elder brother Charlie, who is serving ten years for supplying cocaine. Reggie Kray is serving his 29th year of a 30-year sentence for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie. His twin brother Ronnie died at Broadmoor top security hospital two years ago.

Workplace prank was not assault, sheriff rules

By Shirley English

FOUR men who bundled a woman colleague into a cage and left her hanging above a tank of acid were cleared of assault yesterday.

Ann Hogg, 32, said she had feared for her life during the rites-of-passage prank to mark her move to another department. She was suspended inches above a 6ft-deep vat of acid for 15 minutes while her workmates went to the canteen.

Sheriff Alexander Eccles said that the men's action had been "moronic" but fell short of assault. "It was intended as a joke, albeit in very poor taste. The complainant was aware of the joke and had prepared for it."

Afterwards Miss Hogg, of Dundee, said: "If four men had grabbed me in the same

way on the street, then it would have been a clear case of assault. But the judge seems to think that it is acceptable behaviour because they were my workmates. I feel humiliated."

The men, John Coutts, 35, Allan Owens, 29, Grant Young, 28, and Kevin Docherty, 27, all from Dundee, were sacked after the incident at GTC Gas Turbines Ltd, Dundee.

During the two-day trial Dundee Sheriff Court was told that Miss Hogg took a spare set of clothes to work on the night of September 13, expecting to be soaked with water or covered in flour and eggs.

She said that the prank "went over the top." "I was screaming and pleading with them to let me down. The

bottom of the cage was only inches above the tank and it was sagging. What if they had pressed the wrong button?"

Afterwards she said her fingers were sore from clinging to the cage. The next morning she had muscle spasms in her neck and shoulders. She did not start her new job and had since been on invalidity benefit.

Ronald Tough, for the defence, said that Miss Hogg had laughed off the incident at the time and had not been injured. He alleged that money was her motivation for taking the case to court.

After the case Mr Young said: "It was just a practical joke. But we have paid for it with our jobs." The men plan to lodge a claim for unfair dismissal.

Tall ships set sail from granite city

By Shirley English

NINETY sailing ships will unfurl enough sail to cover 20 football pitches when they set sail from Aberdeen this afternoon at the start of the 1997 Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race.

Up to 750,000 visitors to the quayside will be greeted by the sight of an armada of tall ships from 16 countries, including 15 square rigged, as they prepare to depart on the four-week voyage from Scotland to Norway and Sweden. According to the forecast, they will start in perfect conditions — occasional sunshine and bracing south and southwesterly winds — to carry them northwards into the North Sea.

Among them will be the world's largest sailing ship, the Russian four-masted barque *Sedov*, built in 1921. It carries a

crew of 295, is 407ft long and has masts close to the height of Nelson's column. The nearest ship in size is the 360ft *Mir*, also from Russia.

The *Sedov*, formerly a merchant vessel which took part in the last grain race from Australia to Europe before the Second World War, can reach speeds of 15 knots. "It moves like a swan, it's magnificent," said Peter Smales, of the Sail Training Association, based in Portsmouth, which organises the event.

This year's race sees the largest number of class A square-rigged ships, up from 11 last year. The minimum ship size is 35ft and a condition of entry is that at least half the crew are aged 16 from 24. In total 2,000 youngsters are on board this year.

The ships will race from the granite city to Trondheim in Norway on a 560

nautical mile route which, at its northernmost point, will pass 150 miles outside the Arctic Circle. After four days in port the ships will then cruise, not racing, 430 nautical miles down the Norwegian coast to Stavanger. From there they will then begin the second and final race to Göteborg in Sweden, a 450 nautical mile voyage, after which the crews will enjoy five days of festivities that will start on August 13.

They will be competing for the Cutty Sark trophy, a foot-long silver model of the famous tea clipper designed by the Aberdeen-based Hercules Linton in the 1860s. The trophy will be awarded not to the race winners, but to the ship that does most to promote international friendship during the voyage.

Photograph, page 24

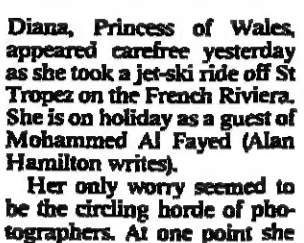
ملكا من اصل

Officials haunted by death toll, Russell Jenkins reports

The figure rises considerably when deaths from poisoning involving a controlled drug, both accidental or suicide, are included. There were 442 accidental deaths in this category in 1994 and 334 drug-related suicides.

Drug victims are predominantly male, between 18 and 35; unemployed, and often from a broken family.

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took a launch out to confront them and to ask how long they intended to continue taking pictures of her sons. The Princess was apparently oblivious to the criticism of some Tory MPs that she

The unresolved question of the Princess's holiday remained whether she fully informed the Queen and the

Prince of Wales about her exact destination. Buckingham Palace yesterday confirmed that the Queen had been aware that her grandchildren were being taken on a foreign holiday, but they

refused to confirm whether the Princess had told her mother-in-law exactly where. Mr Al Fayed's spokesman in London said that the Spencer and Al Fayed families had been friends for many years and that the Princess's father had been a particular friend of Mr Al Fayed.

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	Monthly Repayments	£202.17 ± 48
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O%	TYPICAL EXAMPLE	Chs. RL 1,2 Dist 2-yr
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	Deposit	£4,120.00
	Monthly Repayments	£171.67 x 24
	Total Credit Charge	£8,940.00

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O%	TYPICAL EXAMPLE	Old RL 1.2 Dist 3-yr
	Cash Price Inc. on the road costs*	£8,240.00
	Deposit	£4,120.00
	Monthly Repayments	£114.44 x 36

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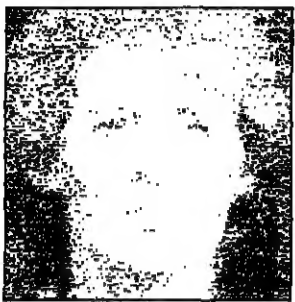
3110. A TOUCH SIMPLER.

Harding's widow agrees £25m deal for his mistress

By MICHAEL HORSNELL



Crash victim: Harding



Widow: Ruth Harding



Mistress: Vicky Jaramillo

THE widow of Matthew Harding, the businessman killed in a helicopter crash last year, has respected his wishes by agreeing that his mistress and illegitimate child should receive a £25 million inheritance.

Mr Harding, 42, the Chelsea Football Club vice-chairman, left up to £200 million in his will, placed in a discretionary trust to be administered by two close friends. He asked that his widow, Ruth, his mistress and all his five children should all be properly cared for.

Mrs Harding, also 42, and their four children are to get at least £50 million, giving them an expected annual income of about £2 million. And in a move to prevent any acrimony over the estate, she has agreed that Vicky Jaramillo, 36, an Ecuadorian-born former waitress who met Mr Harding in 1991 and has a two-year-old daughter, Ella, from their relationship, should also benefit.

Maggie Nugent, one of the will's two executors, who was Mr Harding's personal assistant, said: "Matthew's wishes were for Ruth and Vicky, and the children, to be looked after and Ruth has gone along with that."

"It just shows what a kind and caring person she is. There are no arguments over

the will, as so many people predicted there would be."

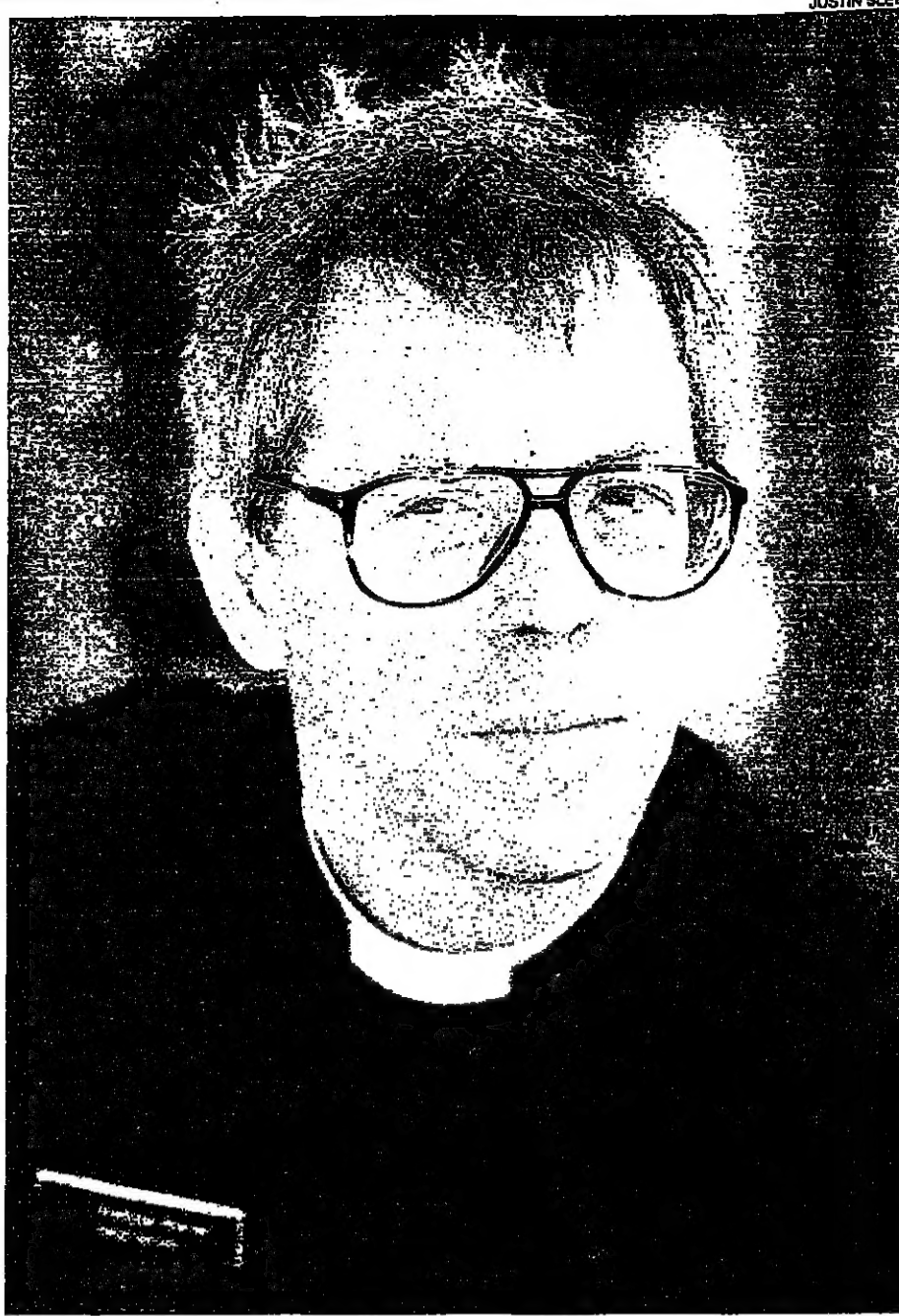
The amounts given to the two women in Mr Harding's life are not fixed sums, as a large part of the money is still tied up in shares and other investments.

Much of his estate consists of sizeable stakes in Chelsea Village, the holding company for the Premiership football club, and Benfield, the insurance group where he made his fortune.

Mr Harding was one of Britain's wealthiest men. Before his death, he had ploughed £1 million to the Labour Party. He died with three friends and the helicopter's pilot in the crash near Middlewich, Cheshire, while travelling back to London after watching Chelsea's Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Bolton.

The popular tycoon met his wife on the terraces at Chelsea at the age of 16, and they married six years later, having four children: Hannah, now 18, Luke, 15, and twins Patrick and Joel, 12.

A report into the crash from the Department of Transport's Air Accidents Investigation Branch is not expected for several months. Such inquiries take an average of a year. Mr Harding's inquest has been opened and adjourned until the end of that investigation.



Mr Beaver, head of the Church's media unit, at the General Synod yesterday

How a Vietnam veteran became a man of God

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Rev Bill Beaver is one of a growing number of men and women in high-powered jobs who find that the material world fails to satisfy their spiritual needs, and who are opting for ordination.

Mr Beaver, 51, a Vietnam veteran, former infantryman and intelligence expert, was the director of marketing at the Industrial Society when a letter arrived inviting him to apply for the job of director of communications for the Church of England.

His salary remains a closely-guarded secret, but PR Week has estimated he took a 50 per cent cut to join the church, a figure he does not deny. His nickname at the General Synod, "Have a Beer Beaver", is derived from his habit of offering visitors to the press office a drink the moment they enter.

During a brief respite at the synod yesterday, where he joined York University security staff to help control the lively demonstrations mounted by protesters from the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, he described his transition from high-flying corporate marketing executive to full-time servant of the church.

Mr Beaver came to Britain from Colorado in 1971 to study history at Oxford, where it was suggested that he consider becoming a priest. He was ordained in

1982, at the age of 36, but remained in the non-stipendiary ministry while he pursued a career in communications and marketing.

Mr Beaver helped turn the Industrial Society into one of Europe's largest independent development groups on employment practices. Before that he was corporate affairs director at the NatWest Bank. In the meantime, he spent every Sunday working as a curate in Brixton, south London.

Both the bank and the society tried to persuade him to drive company cars. "I didn't think a priest in Brixton should have one so I pushed them to give me a bicycle instead," he said.

Before that, he was the man who took the "Dr" out of Barnardo's, Britain's largest children's charity. He went there from the advertising company J Walter Thompson, where he was an account executive. His wife, Sarah, whom he met at Oxford, is a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Defence.

"Vocations are increasing, partly because of the times we have come through," he said yesterday. "People are realising that there is more to life than they have had before. They are also realising that they have more to offer than they have been asked to give before."

Mears beaten for Law Society post

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PHILLIP SYCAMORE swept to victory in the Law Society's election for president yesterday, beating Martin Mears, the maverick council member who took the society by storm in winning the presidency two years ago and outraging many with his outspoken comments.

In a low turn-out — just more than 30 per cent of the 83,000 solicitors in England and Wales entitled to vote — Mr Sycamore took about two-thirds of the vote. Mr Sycamore, 46, becomes the youngest president in the organisation's 152-year history. He won 16,878 votes against Mr Mears's 8,148.

Michael Mathews attracted 16,497 votes for vice-president compared with 8,161 for David Keating. Robert Sayer, who was Mr Mears's vice-president but who joined Mr Sycamore earlier this year, was elected as deputy vice-president with 17,245 votes.

Mr Sycamore, a medical

negligence practitioner with Lonsdales, a small Lancashire firm, said: "This is a vote for progress, not politics." His priority was to build a "sound and robust" relationship with the Government, which was committed to reviewing issues affecting solicitors and their clients, he said. "We must be prepared to demonstrate that we are open-minded and constructive, while vigorously defending the interests of the profession and its clients."

Despite the recent disclosure of an election tactics meeting held by Mr Sycamore's team and the discussion of "dirty tricks" to mar Mr Mears's chances, Tony Girling, the society's current president, said the election had not been fought by dirty tricks, nor won by them.

Last night Mr Mears congratulated Mr Sycamore's team: "I wish them well in their efforts on behalf of the Law Society and the profession."

Thieves fire at RAF man outside base

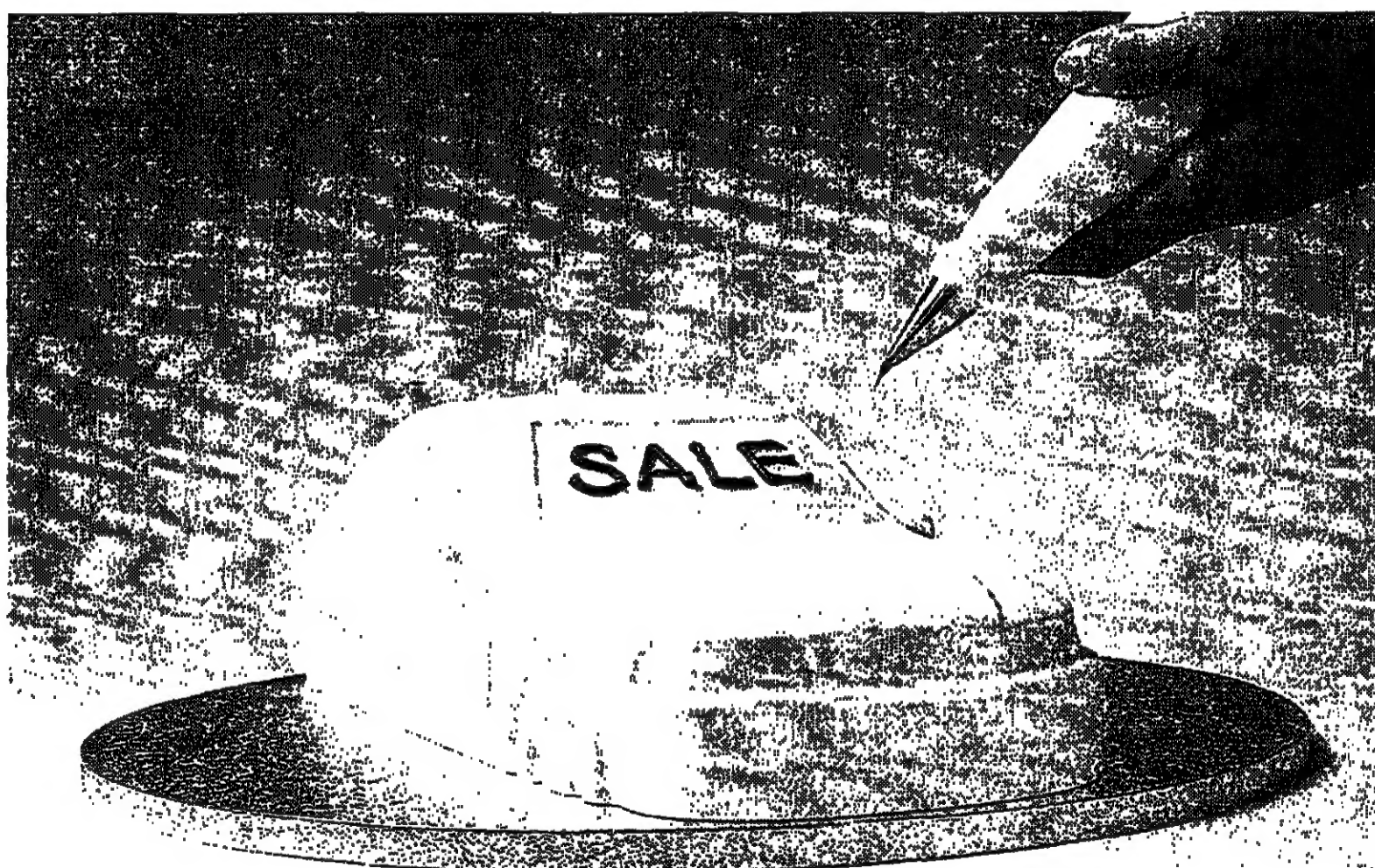
By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN OFF-DUTY RAF policeman was shot at yesterday after he tried to arrest two men who were attempting to steal a car outside an air base.

The corporal was unhurt by the shots, which were fired after he had wrestled one of the men to the ground outside RAF Northolt in west London.

The base is used for flights by the Royal Family and politicians. Scotland Yard said that the incident was not terrorist-related. A spokeswoman said: "On being challenged, it is believed one man pulled out a firearm and fired a number of shots. Both men made off."

The men had been spotted attempting to break into a car parked beside the perimeter. Afterwards police sealed off surrounding roads and carried out a search of the area, using dogs. Police helicopters were also called in to try to find the men.



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Child-minder 'killed baby girl in a fit of temper'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A REGISTERED child-minder threw a four-month-old girl against a hard surface with such force that her skull was fractured in two places, a court was told yesterday.

Angela Lee, 46, a mother of two, was said to have lost her temper when Danielle Firth failed to settle or feed. Mrs Lee denies murdering the baby and claims she toppled from her child seat on to a toy castle.

Louise Godfrey, QC, for the prosecution, told Leeds Crown Court that a post-mortem examination showed five separate areas of bruising to the child's face, including her left eyebrow, ear, nose and jawline. "They may have been caused by separate incidents or impacts, with the baby's face being pulled around, probably to feed, causing bruises to her face, her head being hit on some surface causing fractures to the scalp, or being thrown or propelled with such force that her brain rattled about inside her head, causing internal bleeding and a swollen brain from which she later died."

Danielle, the daughter of



Angela Lee, the child-minder, who claimed that Danielle Firth had fallen out of her child seat



Barry Firth, a financial adviser, and his wife Piers, from Denby Dale in west Yorkshire, had been in Mrs Lee's care for ten days when she died in February 1996.

Mrs Lee, a registered child-minder with Kirkstall Social Services for seven years, had said the baby fell as she was preparing lunch for her own son, Alex, 4, and another child in her care.

The jury was told that Mrs Lee, also of Denby Dale, had put the child down to sleep while the other children ate their meal. When she checked

her 45 minutes later she had found her "pale and floppy". She had rung for an ambulance, telephoned the baby's father at work and begun mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The baby had been pronounced dead on arrival at Barnsley District General Hospital less than 30 minutes later.

Miss Godfrey said: "The Crown says that for whatever reason, probably the baby wouldn't settle or feed, the defendant lost her temper and beat her to the extent that she caused those injuries and killed her. The Crown says... that the defendant's intention at the time she inflicted those injuries, whatever her regrets afterwards, must at the very least have been to cause that little baby very serious harm."

After her arrest, Mrs Lee had given conflicting accounts of what happened to police. Miss Godfrey said: "She was concealing the truth as to what she had, in fact, done to the child."

"She described her as a struggler who wouldn't feed and a wriggler who was difficult to undress. She said the baby was spoilt a little bit and that her mother used to pick her up every time she mumbled. She said the baby was a crier."

Questioned by Robert Smith, QC, for the defence, Mrs Firth agreed Mrs Lee had a tidy home and her own children appeared healthy and well cared for. "She was mature and seemed more capable than the others. She was an experienced lady, or she led me to believe she was."

Mr Firth agreed that Mrs Lee was carefully chosen from a range of applicants. The trial continues.



Sharon Howells, who lost her sight when she gave birth to Kelly-Marie, can now see her for the first time

Glasses let 'blind' mother see daughter

A MOTHER who went blind while giving birth six months ago has seen her daughter for the first time, thanks to a £59 pair of reading spectacles (Simon de Bruxelles writes).

Sharon Howells was told by doctors that there was unlikely to be any improvement for at least two years, if at all, after she lost her sight as the result of a rare complication caused by a blood disorder. However, Mrs Howells, 23, recently thought she could see the vague outline of the face of Kelly-Marie.

She turned for help to her local optician, Chris Williams, at Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, who supplied a pair of reading spectacles. Mrs Howells said: "Seeing Kelly for the first time is a moment I'll never forget. I looked at her huge blue eyes and felt tears pouring down my cheeks."

Dr Peter Collins, of University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, said: "The disorder caused the red blood cells to fragment and this damaged her eyes." Despite the improvement, Mrs Howells still cannot see close-up or at a distance.

Gang leaders forfeit £4.5m drugs profits

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A CAREER switch from armed robbery to drug smuggling ended in jail for a south London gang yesterday. They were also ordered to hand over profits of £4.5 million.

The gang included Anthony White, who had previously walked free after being implicated in the Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery. White, 53, from Catford, was given 11½ years as a "principal organiser" of the syndicate which tried to import at least £65 million of drugs from South America, Europe and North Africa.

He was arrested after Customs' longest-ever covert investigation, launched in August 1993 when south London gangs were suspected of getting involved in the lucrative drugs trade. White admitted smuggling £7 million of cocaine through Dover, and cannabis worth £250,000 through Portsmouth.

John Short, 38, described as White's most trusted lieutenant, was given 9½ years at Bristol Crown Court. Judge Foley said their sentences were low as they had pleaded guilty.

The gang's third leader, Brian Doran, 52, originally from Glasgow, was jailed for 25 years over cocaine worth £34 million shipped to Pevensey Bay, East Sussex. His righthand man Kenneth Togher, 33, of Brompton Park Court, Fulham, London, was also given 25 years. Togher's wife Madeline had been acquitted of involvement in the

conspiracy. Doran was ordered to pay to the Crown £2,091,084 and Togher £2,410,281 in drug dealing proceeds.

Police believe that he and other gang members were the target of a hit squad sent by the Colombian drug cartels, which led to massive security surrounding the trial.

Five other men — Stephen McKeown, 40, Dermot Trainor, 34, George Caccavale, 56, and Robin Sargent, 54, and Terence Reeves, 49 — were given sentences ranging from eight to 18 years. Four other lesser members have already been jailed.

Customs officers posing as drug smugglers had to be rescued by a passing freighter when their tug sank with four tonnes of Moroccan cannabis during a storm in the Bay of Biscay. Exeter Crown Court was told yesterday.

The tug *Adherence II* was acting as a link in a smuggling chain, and had collected the cannabis in a rendezvous with a yacht when the storm struck. The officers replaced the lost cargo with £12 million-worth of cannabis from Customs stores and made for another rendezvous with the gang's shore party, when the drug was taken ashore in a rigid inflatable at Falmouth.

Nine of the alleged drug runners are denying conspiracy to smuggle the cannabis. The jury has heard that four of the organisers have already pleaded guilty. The trial continues.



Togher with wife Madeline, who was cleared



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Drive to ban tobacco adverts in three years

BRITAIN is to lead an initiative to ban tobacco advertising and sponsorship throughout the European Union by 2000, as government statistics disclosed that an increasing number of children are becoming addicted to cigarettes.

The move to deny publicity to a habit that kills half a million people a year in EU countries will be started by Britain when it takes over presidency of the Union in the first half of next year. Pádraig Flynn, the Irish European Commissioner responsible for social affairs, told the conference that thanks to the commitment of the British Government, he looked forward "in the very near future" to the day when children in Europe children would no longer be exposed to tobacco advertising.

Yesterday's government-organised Anti-Tobacco Summit was held against the background of new figures from the Office for National Statistics which show that while adults are turning away from tobacco, more children are becoming addicted. Last year 13 per cent of children in England aged between 11 and 15 smoked at least one cigarette a week, compared with 12 per cent in 1994. In Scotland, 14 per cent of 12 to 15-year-olds were regular smokers.

The pattern is more marked

Britain plans to take the lead in Europe with an anti-smoking crusade, reports

Ian Murray

for girls: 15 per cent smoke regularly compared with 11 per cent in 1993 and 13 per cent in 1994.

To counter the trend the Government is considering raising the legal age for smoking from 16 to 18, and possibly introducing an official card as proof of age. Higher taxation, bans on smoking in public places and a health education programme are other possibilities.

Speakers at the conference criticised the way that tobacco sponsorship made smoking glamorous to appeal to the young. That was why the tobacco industry was so keen to hang on to motor racing, and was threatening to withdraw sponsorship from motor racing in those countries in which a ban is introduced, which may encourage the sport to race elsewhere. To counter this threat Richard



Jowell: new legislation

Branson said that he was ready to set up his own Formula One racing championship.

"I am ready to call their bluff on this," Mr Branson said. "Virgin will set up a rival spectacle worldwide if the tobacco companies try to do this. However, the chances of this happening are quite small because I don't believe these companies are able to blackmail governments into thinking their country will lose a key sport if tobacco sponsorship ends."

Mr Branson said that tobacco sponsorship made it possible to pay grand prix drivers inflated salaries and perfectly good drivers could be found for a fraction of the money. "Instead of Formula One it might even be better to set up a rival Indy car racing circuit, clean of all involvement with tobacco. Indy racing is more

exciting anyway." He said Virgin was also ready to step in to sponsor cricket.

He said the Government could afford to replace the £10 million tobacco companies spend on sports sponsorship in Britain since every year the Treasury obtained £120 million in revenue from the 50 million packets of cigarettes sold to children aged between 11 and 15. The tax from these illegal sales was enough to fund the £120 million needed for an anti-smoking education programme.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, told the conference that the Government would bring out a White Paper on ways to curb smoking by the end of the year, and legislation banning all tobacco advertising, including sponsorship, would be in the Queen's Speech next year. There would be a phased withdrawal of sponsorship. "We are determined to get to the next millennium without tobacco, but with sports and the arts intact," she said.

Smoking not only killed but was also a major source of health inequality, with the poor more addicted than the wealthy. "If you want to track poverty and disadvantage then look at the smoking statistics," she said.

Letters, page 21



Although fewer adults are smoking, more children are becoming addicted

Mothers who smoke may give birth to tearaways

By Nick Nuttall

WOMEN who smoke ten cigarettes or more a day during pregnancy and have male children are far more likely to have boys who become troublemakers, scientists claim.

The risk of so-called "conduct disorder" is more than four times higher in boys whose mothers smoked at least half a packet of cigarettes a day in pregnancy compared with women who smoked fewer than ten cigarettes a day or none at all. The findings, published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, come from a study of 177 boys aged 7 to 12. They were studied for six years.

The researchers, from the University of Chicago and led by Lauren Wakschlag, defined conduct disorder as "frequently and persistently engaging in a variety of serious antisocial behaviour", including lying, stealing, physical cruelty, arson and vandalism. Boys who carried out at least three of these activities for at least six months were diagnosed as having the disorder.

Dr Wakschlag said the women and children involved in the study were attending clinics because the boys were suffering from mild to severe delinquency. She said: "We found those mothers who had not smoked had a 50-50 chance of having a boy with conduct disorder. The group that smoked up to half a pack a day had a 70 per cent chance. In the group that smoked more than ten cigarettes a day there was an 80 per cent chance of an offspring with conduct disorder."

She said the team had tried to screen out socio-economic background and factors such as violence in the family. The researchers are about to launch another study into the effects of smoking in pregnancy on boys and girls.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

The addiction that gives babies a smaller chance in life

TEENAGE girls are now just as likely to smoke as boys. In some communities, they are more likely.

This may store up problems. Less than a quarter of women smokers give up when they become pregnant. Smoking remains a frequent cause of babies being smaller than would otherwise be expected. The babies born to smoking mothers are an average of half a pound lighter, and appreciably shorter, than those born to non-smokers. This could be of immediate importance to a baby who is already small as the result of a pre-term birth. In the long term, smaller

babies are more likely to develop high blood pressure and heart disease.

It is unusual for babies to be abnormally small only as the result of the mother's diet. Although near starvation will affect birth weight, even the low birth weight of children born to mothers in extreme poverty is more likely to be related to the mother's strenuous lifestyle, lack of rest and the consequent failure of the uterine blood supply delivering essential nutrients. In a lack of nourishment in the mother's fare. Cigarette smoking is one of the



factors which can limit the efficiency of the uterine-placental circulation, and hence damage the nutritional lifeline essential to proper growth. Not only are the babies from smoking mothers shorter and lighter, but the mothers are also more likely to have a miscarriage, to go into labour early, or to suffer

placental detachment and haemorrhage during the pregnancy. The babies of smoking mothers also have a higher incidence of foetal neurological abnormalities such as spina bifida, cleft palates and hare lips, and congenital heart disease. As these groups of congenital abnormalities are known to be

associated with low folic acid, and as smoking causes a reduction in blood folate levels, it will be interesting to see if the situation is eased when more women are persuaded to take additional folic acid when planning to become pregnant.

The brain develops at a greater rate in the uterus and in the first year or two of life, than at any other time. If a baby is deprived of adequate nutrition in the uterus, whether from smoking or any other cause, it could well have long-term effects on mental development. Smaller babies born to smoking

mothers do not always catch up in later life, and it has been claimed that there may be some comparative intellectual loss which persists into school years.

It has also been reported that the children have more behavioural problems. It has always been difficult to sort out whether this increase is the result of damage to the brain in utero, or of the mother's genetic make-up being handed on to the child.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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M25 rail station plan threatens green belt

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

PLANS to build a "motorist-friendly" railway station on green-belt land just inside the M25 may pitch the train industry into battle with environmental campaigners.

Ministers are nervous about the proposals to use a green-belt area for the first of a new string of "parkways" — stations near motorway junctions — to encourage motorists to divide long-distance journeys between car and train.

The affluent Hertfordshire community of Hadley Wood has been targeted as an ideal site for the first parkway inside the M25. The proposed new station, with more than 1,000 parking spaces, is seen by rail executives as perfect for encouraging motorists in Hertfordshire, Essex, Buckinghamshire and north London to park easily and complete their journeys by train, either into London or to the North East and Scotland.

Transport ministers led by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, are forming a long-term strategy to integrate different modes of travel. However, the proposal could draw ministers into a planning dispute with residents of an area that has Grade II

listed Georgian houses and properties in the £1 million-plus range. The prospect of drawing more traffic onto an increasingly congested stretch of road also raises problems.

Although parkway stations are not new — the first opened at Bristol 25 years ago — there is a fresh drive to site stations close to the main motorways. When the £12 million Luton Parkway, near the M1 and Luton airport, opens next year, it will become the fifth after Bristol, Didcot in Oxfordshire, Tiverton in Devon and Haddenham and Thame in Buckinghamshire. Other sites

are being examined near the M1 and M6.

Hadley Wood's small station, which is on the East Coast main line and West Anglia Great Northern line, would be enlarged on farmland owned by Enfield borough council. It is unlikely to be built before 2000. Christopher Garnett, chief executive of Great North Eastern Railway, said that the parkway would make "a real difference" to thousands of travellers, but added that it could create problems for his company, which is already coping with substantial increases in

Euston to get check-in lounge

AIRPORT-STYLE departure lounges with children's play areas are planned for the railways (Arthur Leathley writes).

Richard Branson's Virgin train group will open a reception area, retail outlets and pre-booking facilities early next year at Euston station, the London terminal for the West Coast main line. The changes come as Virgin announced an increase in ad-

vance ticket sales, but managers insist that the plans do not mean the end of the turn-up-and-go system.

However, the new 200-seat lounge for standard-class passengers, which can be used by travellers on other lines, is intended to encourage more people to arrive at the station well before departure time. Ticket-collection machines are also likely to steer more passengers away from con-



passengers. Richard Courie, chairman of Labour-controlled Enfield's environment committee, said: "We have to decide whether it is a price worth paying to give up a bit of green-belt land to help improve health by reducing traffic congestion. I think it is."

GNER also hopes to create parkway stations outside Doncaster, Edinburgh, and possibly Nottingham.

Leading article, page 21

Hospital doctor dies from CJD

By Paul Wilkinson

A HOSPITAL doctor has died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease more than 20 years after being treated with a contaminated batch of growth hormone. Neil Kreibich, 37, a married father of three, is thought to have contracted the disease from the hormone.

Until he was diagnosed as a possible victim of CJD — the human form of "mad cow" disease — more than a year ago, he worked as an orthopaedic surgeon at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. A post-mortem examination will be carried out today.

Growth hormone injections made from the glands of humans were used until the mid-1980s to treat people who suffered from stunted growth in their youth. Nine people across Britain are believed to have died from CJD after being treated with contaminated hormones from the pituitary glands of corpses.

A spokeswoman for County Durham Health Authority said: "It is important to stress that it [CJD] cannot be passed from person to person. Some people may be concerned but there is no reason to be."

Mr Kreibich qualified in

1984 at Newcastle University. He worked at hospitals in Newcastle, Sheffield and Canada. CJD can be confirmed only by a post-mortem examination, but when doctors told him of their suspicions, he and his wife Liz set up a trust fund for their children.

Yesterday his family said a statement: "Neil died peacefully on July 11 from an illness believed to be Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. His family would like to thank all those people who have offered their kindness and support."

Mrs Kreibich and their children Anna, 5, William, 3, and Robert, 1, were being comforted by friends at their home in Jesmond, Newcastle. Phil Taylor, a Newcastle GP and a close friend of Mr Kreibich, said: "He had growth hormone treatment 20 years ago and, as we now know, some batches were infected. The disease meant his co-ordination began to go. He needed a lot of nursing and Liz helped him tremendously, as did the social services and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Neil was tremendously well liked. He was a great family man and a respected surgeon."

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£2m boost for Gulf syndrome research

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FUNDING for medical research into Gulf War syndrome, and for practical help for sufferers, is to be doubled. The Government's initiative, announced yesterday, will involve spending £6.5 million over three years. John Reid, Minister for the Armed Forces, said that the new money included £2.25 million for research into the health effects of vaccines and tablets given to troops to protect them against the threat of biological and chemical warfare.

Announcing the initiative in the House of Commons, he accepted the "debt of honour" owed to the Gulf War veterans when he outlined 20 key areas of practical help. Although there was still no medical or scientific consensus on the syndrome, he acknowledged that victims were frustrated at the lack of progress.

He said: "We have a duty to discharge our responsibilities in respect of those who have served their country. I aim to see we do just that. We want to be open and honest with them and enter into a dialogue with them. They don't want fine words and sympathy, they want practical help."

Tony Flint, 49, co-ordinator for the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association, said: "This announcement is long overdue. I feel great relief that someone is at last listening to us."

Tim Pitman, 26, a fellow veteran and sufferer, said: "I'm overwhelmed. The new Government's approach appears to be much more sympathetic. They recognise that people are ill and dying and are prepared to act."

The research work will be carried out at the Ministry of Defence's Chemical Research Establishment at Porton Down, Wiltshire. About 1,500

The Ministry of Defence is testing ten tents used by British servicemen in the Gulf War for organophosphate pesticides after they were bought by a Scout leader. The tents were purchased at auction in 1993 and used as dining shelters. The MoD said initial scientific advice was reassuring. A spokesman said the tents were being examined at the Scout Association's request. "The tests are now under way and the results will be made public as soon as they are available."

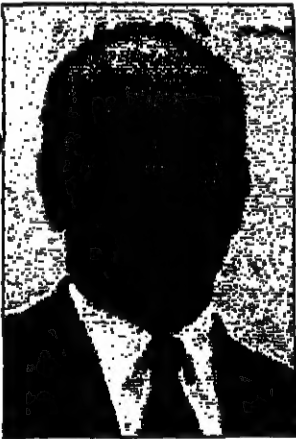
veterans have complained of a variety of unexplained symptoms since returning from the Gulf. Some fear they have passed illnesses on to their wives and children. Among symptoms they have complained of are chest problems, wasted muscles, chronic fatigue, memory loss, headaches, cramps and diarrhoea.

Dr Reid, who met veterans' representatives over a working lunch yesterday, said handling of the issue would be guided by three principles. Veterans would have prompt access to medical advice from the MoD Medical Assessment Programme (MAP); the ministry would ensure appropriate research was carried out into veterans' illnesses and factors that might have a bearing on them; and the ministry would make available to the public in general, and to veterans in particular, information of potential relevance.

Dr Reid said in the Commons that he questioned the motives of nobody at the time of the Gulf War. "We took what measures were thought necessary to protect our troops. Like anything else in life, mistakes may have been made. I have asked for explanations of what happened, how it happened, and when it happened."

Dr Reid also announced that no-fault compensation would continue to be provided for sick veterans in addition to normal service pensions. He emphasised that service personnel were entitled to sue for compensation against the MoD on the same basis as employees of other organisations, and that if further investigations or research established liability, the MoD would pay.

The MoD said 1,285 Gulf veterans had applied for pensions, of which some 295 relate to symptoms arising from undiagnosed illness.



Reid wants to be "honest and open" with veterans



The walkway on the site of 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, former home of Frederick and Rosemary West, after its opening yesterday

Walkway paves over 'house of horrors'

GLoucester yesterday tried to erase for ever evidence of its house of horrors when a shrub-lined walkway was unveiled on the site of 25 Cromwell Street, the former home of the mass murderers Frederick and Rosemary West (Tim Jones writes).

No relatives of the nine young women and girls murdered at the house were present, and it was agreed that no plaque or memorial garden should be placed on the site or benches provided.

John Holmes, the council leader, said: "We want this to be the end of a tragic chapter in this city's history. The walkway is the result of a full consultation with the victims' families and the neighbours."

The 150ft-long walkway, built at a cost of £43,000, links Cromwell Street to a nearby square. The council paid £45,000 to buy the Wests' semi-detached home and razed it to the ground to deter sightseers and souvenir hunters.

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Spain unites in grief as Eta victim is buried

FROM GILES TREMLITT IN MADRID

IN AN unprecedented display of national grief at the bloodshed caused by the Basque separatist group Eta, Spaniards stopped work yesterday while the terrorists' latest victim, Miguel Angel Blanco, a town councillor, was buried under a grey sky at his home town of Ermua.

Crown Prince Felipe, heir to the Spanish throne, and the Prime Minister, José María Aznar, attended the funeral in the town's church. Thousands packed the narrow streets, weeping and clapping as the coffin was carried the short distance from the town hall to the church.

Cries of "Miguel" and "Murderers" rang out as the coffin, draped with the town's crimson flag, went past. Black ribbons were pinned to white sheets that hung from every balcony along the route.

Señor Blanco's mother sobbed as both the Prince and the Prime Minister kissed her, her daughter and the dead man's girlfriend. There were warm words of consolation for his bricklayer father as he was embraced by the Prime Minister in front of the coffin.

The family sat in silent grief as the Bishop of Bilbao, Mgr Ricardo Blázquez, conducted a funeral ceremony in Spanish and the Basque language.

Señor Blanco's girlfriend, María del Mar Díaz, clutched a pair of drumsticks the murdered man used when he played in a local rock band. "With the barbaric murder of Miguel Angel, terrorism has shown its cruel, cold face," Mgr Blázquez said. Among those listening were most of the Government and three former Prime Ministers — Felipe González, Adolfo Suárez and Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo.

Two Basque *dantzaris*, dancers dressed in the traditional red-and-white costume of the region, performed a funeral dance to the sound of pipes before the coffin left the church. Señor Blanco's family were consoled by Prince Felipe as the coffin was sealed into a niche at the town cemetery on the outskirts of Ermua.

The killing of Señor Blanco, after a two-day kidnapping during which hundreds of thousands took to the streets to beg Eta to spare his life, has become a national drama in Spain. Newspapers yesterday printed front-page pictures of the young councillor's face as he lay in an open coffin. The funeral was broadcast live across the country on all the national and regional television channels.

"The pain and anguish of

the Blanco family has been shared by our family and by families across Spain," Prince Felipe said after the funeral.

Unions and employers' organisations called a ten-minute national work stoppage to coincide with the funeral. Millions stood in silence at factory gates and outside shops and offices. There were isolated outbreaks of violence as demonstrators gathered outside social clubs and party offices of Herri Batasuna in Bilbao, northern Spain.

Señor Aznar returned to Madrid to lead a march through the city. He called on people to continue street protests against Eta. "Eta and Herri Batasuna have closed the gaps in the wall that isolates them from our society," he said. "The terrorists and their political arm are now on one side of the divide. The democrats are on the other side."

Señor Aznar made no mention of any measures against Herri Batasuna, which has two deputies in the national parliament. Democratic parties have agreed to end all forms of co-operation with the separatist party. Mediators trying to arrange talks between the Government and Eta have broken off contacts with Herri Batasuna.



Signs saying "Enough is enough" are held by anti-Eta mourners in Ermua yesterday

Guerrillas' friends and foes expect more killing

As tears flowed for the latest of more than 800 victims of Basque assassins, the apologists of terror were again marching for independence, Giles Tremlett writes

THE killing of Miguel Angel Blanco has damaged Eta, causing a wave of protest across Spain's northern Basque country, but is deemed unlikely to cause its downfall.

Even José María Aznar, the Prime Minister, admitted yesterday that the terrorist group would probably continue to kill. "I cannot stand before you and say there will be no more pain," he said.

Security sources say the terrorist group, which has killed 800 people in 30 years of bloodshed, remains well-funded and has the unconditional backing of a hardcore

of activists. Trema Montero is a former Euzko MP for Herri Batasuna, the Eta-linked legal separatist party, who now opposes the group. He issued a warning that, with its latest murder, the guerrillas had simply decided to step up the level of violence. "This is just the first instalment," he said. Street battles in Pamplona

showed that, despite popular outrage and revision at the killing, the guerrillas' hardcore supporters remain intransigent. The fighting started when pro-Eta youths set light to the hundreds of red scarves that revellers at the San Fermín fiesta, famed for its bull-running, had tied to the doors of the city hall in

protest at the killing. Herri Batasuna remained unrepentant last night. For Jon Idigoras, 60, the most senior of Herri Batasuna's leaders, it was business as usual.

While millions of Spaniards were protesting against Eta, Señor Idigoras and 100 other separatists were on a march demanding Basque independence.

He admitted that the killing of Señor Blanco was a blow to his party but said he was confident it would recover. "We are aware of how divided Basque society is right now," he said. "But we have been through situations like this

before. Herri Batasuna has a long history. We will stay on our feet." Only one senior Herri Batasuna member, Patsi Zabala, the regional deputy in Navarre, has openly criticised Eta's action. He was considering his future in the increasingly hardline party.

There were signs, however, that ordinary Herri Batasuna voters had been sickened by the killing. María Teresa Múgica, a Herri Batasuna supporter whose brother is an Eta prisoner, appeared weeping on television. "Eta, I do not understand you. You know where I live. Come and

kill me too," she said. Police believe that Eta has no more than two dozen people in its active service units. But up to 200 activists provide intelligence and logistical support to them or take part in street violence. The group reportedly received \$6 million (£3.5 million) from the family of businessman Cosme Delclaux, a kidnap victim who was released two weeks ago. □ Vitoria: The regional Basque parliament here moved to ostracise the political wing of the armed Basque separatist movement after it refused to condemn the murder of Señor Blanco. (AFP)

WORLD IN BRIEF

Convicted Briton flees court in car

Johannesburg: South African police are hunting for a British citizen convicted of drugs dealing who escaped from court during a lunch recess by driving off in his gold Mercedes (Inigo Gilmore writes). Sivan Srebia, 49, who in January was found in possession of Ecstasy tablets with a street value of 300,000 rands (£37,500), was convicted on June 30 and granted bail. He was in court to be sentenced.

"We consider him to be the most wanted convicted drug dealer in the country," Captain Andy Pleke, of the South African Police Services, said. An Interpol alert has been issued for Srebia, who owns property in England, South Africa, The Netherlands and the United States.

Algiers bombing kills 21

Algiers: Twenty-one people died and 40 were injured when a bomb exploded in a market at Baraki, on the eastern outskirts of Algiers, the Government said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but such bloodshed is usually attributed to Muslim insurgents. The attack came two days before celebrations marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad and just a week after Algerian authorities freed Abdelkader Hachani, the leader of a banned Islamic fundamentalist party, who was imprisoned five years ago on charges of inciting rebellion. (AP)

OJ estate is sold

Los Angeles: OJ Simpson's sumptuous Los Angeles estate was sold at auction yesterday for \$2.65 million (£1.6 million) to the bank that had foreclosed on it. The sale came three years and a month after police found a "trail of blood" leading to the mansion from the slashed bodies of his ex-wife and a friend. Unable to meet his mortgage payments, Simpson faced the choice of declaring bankruptcy yesterday morning or seeing his home sold on the steps of a county courthouse in suburban Norwalk.

Election boost for Yeltsin

Moscow: President Yeltsin received an electoral boost yesterday after voters in the Nizhny Novgorod region elected Ivan Sklyarov, a Kremlin-backed reformer, as the Governor, defeating a candidate backed by the Communists and nationalists (Richard Beeston writes). However, the Kremlin's candidate did less well in the Volga city of Samara, where Georgi Limansky, backed by Aleksandr Lebed, a former general and nationalist leader, became Mayor.

DNA test in 'Fugitive' case

New York: The body of Dr Sam Sheppard, right, whose case inspired the long-running television show *The Fugitive*, is to be exhumed for DNA tests in a definitive attempt to establish that he did not kill his wife in 1954 (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Although he was later acquitted, it was never proved conclusively that he did not kill his wife. Bone marrow will be used for tests to compare with samples found at the scene of the crime.



'Hitler' wine marches on

Udine: An Italian company is refusing to take its "Fuehrer" wine off the market, despite protests from tourists. The wine, which has Adolf Hitler on the label, includes a type called "Sieg Heil". The company has already successfully defended a legal challenge to the brand. (Reuters)

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Kenyan police fire live rounds to halt riots

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

KENYAN police used live ammunition to break up riots in the centre of Nairobi yesterday as violent protests aimed at forcing President Moi to introduce basic political reforms entered a second week. Police fired live rounds to break up the riots, which were held in the centre of Nairobi. The police used live rounds to break up the riots, which were held in the centre of Nairobi. The police used live rounds to break up the riots, which were held in the centre of Nairobi.



Students taunt police in Nairobi yesterday as protests urging political reforms entered a second week. Police fired teargas and live rounds

accused Asians of colluding with Mr Moi and enriching themselves at the expense of the poor. The undergraduates were carrying Kenneth Matiba, leader of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili, who has alienated many Asians by his outbursts, even though many normally conservative Asian Kenyans have recently joined in calls for reforms.

on non-violent protests, but the Nairobi students reinforced their chants with stones and catapults. Sheikh Khalid Balala, a firebrand Muslim preacher who returned from temporary exile last week, warned Mr Moi to allow political parties to operate freely in Kenya in the run-up to elections later this year. "We will humiliate Moi the way he wants to be humiliated. If anybody is going to cast one ballot, I'm

telling you we will blast the elections. We will use force in these elections. Elections will not take place." □ **Machete assault:** An attack on Charity Ngilu, a presidential candidate, by men wielding clubs and machetes was "political", an associate alleged in an interview published by the independent *Daily Nation*. Ten gangsters attacked Ms Ngilu, who declared her candidacy on July 8, as she was leaving a political

rally on Saturday with another opposition MP, Joseph Mulusya, and three other people. The gangsters beat them up, breaking her security man's arm, and stole money and personal effects, including Ms Ngilu's identity card, which was later discovered by the side of the road, the newspaper said. The loss of the two cards, if they were not replaced, would prevent her

running against Mr Moi. "We believe we were attacked by people who knew what they wanted from us," Mr Mulusya told the *Nation*, which quoted him as saying it was a "political" attack. He said that a four-wheel-drive vehicle trailed their car in the Kileleshwa district for several miles, turning off just before they developed two simultaneous punctures. Police described it as "normal highway robbery". (AFP)

Fur flies over call to put koalas on menu

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE koala, the epitome of cute Australian wildlife, was last night at the centre of a row over whether it should be protected or eaten.

Professor Joe Baker, head of the Canberra-based Commission for the Environment, told a waste resources conference in Brisbane that a wide range of native Australian fauna should be harvested for food. "Why can't I sit down to a koala steak or a breast of sulphur-crested cockatoo?" he asked.

"I can eat mud crabs, prawns, bream or whiting without a murmur of protest because seafood is widely accepted as a sustainable food resource," he explained. However, "extreme greens" in the United States were even opposed to eating meat from kangaroos, which number millions, he said.

Professor Baker's views were rejected in Sydney, where the Australian Koala Foundation coincidentally chose yesterday to launch a detailed study into the truth worth of koalas. The report found that their existence supported 9,000 jobs in tourism and wildlife services, and tourists who came to see them generated more than £1 billion.

Clive Hamilton, the executive director of the Australian Institute, said: "The economy would suffer significantly if koalas were absent." John Brown, the former Tourism Minister who once described the koala as "flea-ridden, it piddles on you, it stinks and it scratches", also came out in support of the creature.

"It's time we did something about saving this wonderful, wretched, despite the fact that it is bad tempered and has all sorts of bad habits," he said.

Arafat warned on funds misuse

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday warned Yasser Arafat that he must do more to account for the money given by Britain and other European countries to the Palestinian Authority for development, training and infrastructure.

The message was conveyed by Derek Fatchett, junior Foreign Office minister responsible for the Middle East, when Mr Arafat began a day of talks with the Government of the peace process.

It was also reported to have been reinforced by the Prime Minister, who saw the Palestinian leader for 40 minutes in Downing Street shortly after talks with Ehud Barak, the Israeli Opposition leader. Brit-

ain, which provides the Palestinians with £25 million a year in aid, has been concerned that much of the money has simply disappeared or has been misappropriated. Some members of the Palestinian Authority have built luxurious villas in Gaza close to many of the slums that Britain aid is intended to improve. The peace process was the main theme of talks with Mr Blair and Mr Fatchett, and they urged restraint and patience on Mr Arafat as well as a resumption of broad-ranging security co-operation with the Israelis to prevent any worsening of the present demonstrations and riots in Hebron and the occupied

territories. Last night Mr Arafat had dinner with Clare Short, International Development Secretary, whose department has now taken over responsibility for aid to the Palestinians. Today Mr Arafat will meet Chief Eneika Anyakwu, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, to flesh out his proposals for Palestine for 30 years until 1948 ruled by the British during the mandate. He is not likely to receive a firm reply, as the Commonwealth will draw up new rules on membership eligibility at its summit in October. It is unlikely to allow Palestine to become a member

until an independent Palestinian state is formed. □ **Jerusalem:** Binyamin Netanyahu warned Mr Arafat of "severe Israeli action" unless there was an immediate halt to fierce rioting in Hebron which over the past three weeks has left 250 people injured. Mr Netanyahu did not elaborate on the measures planned. However, Israeli military sources said that these could involve the reconstruction of some areas of Hebron close to the city centre settlement buildings housing 450 Jews which were handed over to Palestinian control in January.

Leading article, page 21

Athletes hurt in bridge collapse

Ramat Gan: A bridge at an Israeli sports stadium collapsed just before the opening ceremonies of an international Jewish sporting event yesterday, killing one person and injuring 15, police said. The pedestrian bridge collapsed at the Ramat Gan stadium near Tel Aviv where the quadrennial Maccabiah Games - nicknamed the "Jewish Olympics" - were due to begin. Israeli Television said many of the 370-member Australian delegation were on the bridge when it collapsed. The games were declared open about 40 minutes later by President Weizman. (Reuters)

Rise in 'innocents' sent to death row

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE number of innocent people on death row has increased sharply in the past four years as use of the death penalty has spread across America, according to a report published today. At least 21 innocent people have been released from death row since 1993, says a 35-page review *The Increasing Danger of Executing the Innocent* by the Death Penalty Information Centre, a Washington lobby group. The group also cites four highly controversial executions since 1992 in Texas and Virginia where, it argues, the

condemned person had "reasonably credible claims of innocence" or was denied the usual rights of appeal. The number of innocent people on death row has doubled over the past 25 years, says the group, because more states have backed capital punishment and new laws have increased the list of crimes which can receive the penalty. Congress has also curtailed the right of appeal. The study grew out of a 1993 congressional report which identified 48 people who had wrongly been sentenced to death between 1973 and 1993.

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Francisco and starting on September 19 and 20, October 1, 15 and 29, 1997. The normal cost is £155, but *Times* readers pay just £37.50. For departures on July 30, August 13 and 20, and September 5 and 10, 1997, a 20% discount is available off the normal prices of £115 to £156. Flights between the UK and US are not included in these prices. You can also get 25% off any other tour featured in the Trek America or Footloose brochures with treks lasting between 7 days to nine weeks. Flightbookers insurance is compulsory with the above offer.

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Von Trapps' happy ending

Austria pays tribute to anti-Nazi Sound of Music family

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ALMOST 60 years after the von Trapps fled the invading Nazi jackboot, the family immortalised by *The Sound of Music* has been officially honoured by the Austrian Government high on a hill in Vermont with not a lonely goatherd in sight.

It was the first time since they escaped from their homeland that the famous singing children had gained recognition from Vienna for their father's ardent objections to Hitler's Third Reich.

At the command of the Austrian Defence Minister, the graduating class of the Theresianum Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt was flown to the foothills of Stowe for a special tribute to Baron Georg



The von Trapp family, whose escape from the Nazis inspired *The Sound of Music*

von Trapp, the aristocratic patriarch and former submarine commander who died 50 years ago.

A series of ceremonies culminated in a performance of Schubert's *German Mass* and the laying of a wreath by the cadets at the grave of Baron and Baroness von Trapp, the couple portrayed by Christopher Plummer and Julie An-

draws in the 1965 film musical. Nearly 50 people, representing three generations of von Trapps and including the baron's six surviving children, joined a cast of 300 in the green pastures of Vermont for a ritual steeped in symbolism. Their story is familiar to the millions who have seen *The Sound of Music*, a film which can claim one of the widest

audiences in history. As a captain in the Austrian Navy after the Anschluss in 1938, the baron refused a role in the German forces and told his family that he planned to emigrate in the face of the advancing Nazis.

"If one says no," he is famously said to have told them, "then we all stay." The family, by then a famous

choral singing troupe, all answered in the affirmative as their governess and later stepmother, Maria Kutschera, plotted their escape.

Despite their father's status as a national hero and the subsequent fame of the family, the von Trapps have received neither apology nor recognition from the frosty Austrian authorities. The Government in Vienna studiously failed to honour the baron after his death and for years banned the film in Austria.

"This was a statement of political significance," said Walter Greinert, the Consul-General to the United States, who attended the event in Vermont. "These officers represent a new Austria. We are a new generation now putting behind us some of the troubles of the past."

And it brought a happy finale to a saga which has plagued the family since the baron died five years after arriving in America. "It is a great honour to our father and our family and a statement on the part of the Austrian officers," said Johannes von Trapp, 58, the youngest of the singing children who toured Europe and later America. "It brings that whole episode to an end."



Maria von Trapp, daughter of Baron Georg and Maria, with Major-General Felber of the Theresianum academy and her half-brother Johannes, left, in Vermont

Spaniard's heirs to sue over 'stolen' oil and ranch legacy

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NEARLY 900 descendants of a Spanish army officer, Jose Manuel Balli Villareal, who was granted a large tract of Texas land by the King of Spain in the early 1800s, are suing for the return of the property, claiming that it was stolen in 1836 by Captain Milfin Kennedy, perhaps the most famous cattle baron in Texas history.

If successful, the case in a small county court in Texas could blaze a trail for thousands of copycat lawsuits across those parts of the United States that were once under Mexican sovereignty.

La Barreta, a 363,000-acre ranch near the town of Sarita, in south Texas, is owned by the John G. and Marie Stella Kennedy Memorial Foundation, a charitable body created in 1960 by Sarita Kennedy East, the granddaughter of Captain Kennedy.

The latter, and his "partner" Captain Richard King — who founded the legendary King Ranch — were among the makers of early Texas history.

They established gargantuan ranches, many the size of small countries, and, in keeping with those turbulent times, much of the land was acquired by force from Mex-

ican landowners. However, the heirs of Balli are now demanding the land back, as well as millions of dollars in oil-well royalties.

Eileen Fowler, an attorney in Houston who is representing the family, says: "Our position is that the Kennedy Foundation is squatting on the land. They've been getting oil royalties, and running cattle, and getting money off land that doesn't belong to them, for all these years."

Ms Fowler says the claimants can prove that the land belongs to them, citing a 50-year grazing lease which expired in 1949 between Sarita Kennedy East and several descendants of Balli. The lease, she says, acknowledged the Ballis' continued ownership of La Barreta.

The Kennedy Foundation has responded by claiming that it owns the land "100 per cent" by proper title as well as by adverse possession, a legal principle that allows effective and unchallenged occupation of land to mature over time into valid legal ownership.

Captain Kennedy took possession of La Barreta in 1836, after the Texas forces defeated the Mexican Army on April 21 of that year, in the Battle of San Jacinto.

Good deal for ex-company car drivers

THE COMPANY CAR is not always the perk it used to be. As more and more companies find a cash option suits them and their employees better, many ex-company car drivers now seek a good deal on motor insurance, where they are not penalised for being without no claims bonus in their own right. This was the case for 35 year old Andrew Field from Hereford.

When Andrew changed jobs to become a business manager for a multi-media software company, he chose the cash option rather than a company car. "During the previous year I had paid more than £2,000 in tax, so a cash alternative to buy my

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only around £20, but I chose Norwich Union Direct because the whole package was better - and because I could pay by monthly premiums. With Norwich Union Direct my yearly insurance comes to just under £280, which includes a discount for having an approved alarm fitted" said Andrew.

£180 Saving takes the lead

FORMER ACTRESS Sarah Burch felt Norwich Union Direct had played a starring role when it came to arranging her motor and household insurance - saving her around £180.



Sarah Burch and her fiancé Steve Reitano

When 27 year old Sarah and her fiancé Steven came to arrange household cover, they turned to Norwich Union Direct for a quote, as the company had saved them around £100 on motor insurance.

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open for business seven days a week - I believe the only company that is - they were able to cover us straightaway".

"We wanted to see if they could be as competitive when it came to household cover. Again we found they offered the best deal - which saved us £80. For their 1990's two bedroom semi-detached house in North London, Sarah and Steven pay £363.24. It is handy having both major insurances with the same company, and it also makes commercial sense."

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For more information, and to arrange cover, call free on 0800 888 777.

IN BRIEF

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The benefits of having a nice, clean cut

For many pregnant women facing the secret terrors of childbirth for the first — or perhaps second — time, it might seem an appealing option. Avoid all the potential problems, the pain and uncertainty of a natural birth, and book in for a purely voluntary elective Caesarean section instead.

Why take the risks of a natural birth going wrong? Why go through all the trauma and fear?

One of several possible answers is that, until recently, most obstetricians in the UK would not countenance the suggestion of a surgical delivery without medical cause. If Caesareans were performed on request, it was a word-of-mouth process, an option available only to the well-connected and privately insured.

Even today, many obstetricians insist that major abdominal surgery without medical justification is not a childbirth option. "The vast majority of my colleagues would consider that a woman seeking an unnecessary Caesarean needed a psychiatrist, not a surgeon," says Dr Marion Hall, an obstetrician at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, only half-joking.

But not only does the practice occur, it now has its own powerful and influential champion, willing to break with all the taboos that surround the subject and speak out publicly in its defence. Professor Nicholas Fisk, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at one of London's leading teaching hospitals, claims that women are showing increasing interest in having their babies delivered by Caesarean section — and that obstetricians are increasingly willing to accede to their requests.

He recently stunned his colleagues by admitting on television his willingness to perform medically unnecessary Caesareans on request, and by forecasting with equanimity that Caesarean rates could reach 50 per cent of all births in the not too distant future. Should this occur, he insists, it will not be the result of the attitudes and practices of the medical profession, as natural childbirth campaigners have always alleged, but in response to demands of women themselves.

"Attitudes are changing because an elective Caesarean section is becoming very, very safe," he says. "It's much safer, for instance, than driving a car. Things are also changing because of the recognition that a vaginal delivery, in almost all women, damages the pelvis. It damages bladder function,

Natural childbirth is a risky business, argues obstetrician Professor Nicholas Fisk. Interview by Sue Corrigan



Professor Nicholas Fisk: "It's much safer than driving a car"

bowel function, the genital tract. All these problems, such as prolapse and incontinence, are extremely rare among women who haven't delivered vaginally. And some women are starting to ask whether this is important or not. Also, you still take a small residual risk to the baby by having a vaginal delivery which you could prevent, presumably, by having a Caesarean."

He argues that with many Western women choosing to have only one or two babies, there is an increasing unwillingness among mothers-to-be to expose their babies to the slightest possible risk of damage or injury in childbirth. And the risks, according to him, are considerable. He reels off the statistics — a 1 in 5,000 chance of the baby dying during labour, a 1 in 1,750 chance of the baby having fits at birth from oxygen deprivation, a chance of permanent brain injury of about 1 in 4,000. "Oh, and also, there's some-

where between a 1 in 500-1,000 chance of the baby suddenly dying inside the womb from 38 weeks onwards until the point you go into labour," he says. So what is he suggesting? That the safest course of action would be to perform an elective Caesarean on all pregnant women, automatically, two weeks before the due date? "No, no, no, I'm not saying that at all," he says. "I'm saying that if you look at the risks, it's not such a crazy thing for a woman to have an elective Caesarean if she wants it."

"I mean, if you think about it, you're not allowed to drive home drunk because it's too dangerous — but you're allowed to have a vaginal delivery, which is more dangerous. Society's perception of risk is changing. We all have airbags in our cars, and seatbelts, and wear helmets when we drive motor bikes. People are beginning to appreciate that the most dangerous day of your life is probably the day you're born, until you are about 70."

The question of risks in childbirth — how they are perceived and how they are presented to vulnerable and trusting patients — is fundamental to the passionate debate over Caesarean section rates. Since the early Seventies, surgical intervention in childbirth in all developed nations has rocketed, rising from an average of about 5 per cent to 15, 20, 25, even 30 per cent of all births, depending on regional and national practices. In the United Kingdom, the rate varies between 11-16 per cent, but in individual hospitals — such as Queen Charlotte's, where Professor Fisk holds a senior position — it now exceeds 25 per cent.

To natural childbirth campaigners, this trend — unjustified by any overall improvement in outcomes for mothers or babies — is deeply worrying. Blame, they argue, rests squarely on the shoulders of scalpel-happy obstetricians and an absurdly medicalised, high-tech approach to childbirth. To date, the medical profession has reacted defensively, arguing somewhat plaintively that doctors are often placed in an extremely difficult position, forced to weigh up the "balance of risks" in a potentially complicated delivery, and not infrequently sued if they get it wrong. Above all, they insist they would only deliver a baby surgically if they judged it to be medically necessary.

Professor Fisk, an ambitious high-flyer born and trained in Australia, reacts assertively to his colleagues' innate caution on the issue: "I don't like being portrayed as an enthusiast for Caesarean section, because I don't think I am. But what I do react against is the kneejerk response that the Caesarean rate is too high and must be reduced."

He was, he claims, once "very much against" high operative rates, but began to question his position when he became aware that many of the female obstetrics staff at Queen Charlotte's, as well as the wives of obstetricians, were booking themselves in for Caesareans as soon as they became pregnant. "On the one hand you'd be striving to encourage women to deliver vaginally, and then you'd find your junior staff were having elective Caesarean sections without any reason. So that was my road to Damascus experience."

A father of two (he declines to disclose how his children were delivered), he denies any suggestion that the medical profession is responsible for driving up surgical delivery rates over the past 20 years.



Natural childbirth campaigners say that scalpel-happy obstetricians scare women by emphasising the risks of natural births

"You have to appreciate that it's been obstetric dogma for about the past 15 years that the Caesarean section rate is too high. Most obstetricians have grown up in an environment whereby you stayed up all night, forcing a woman to have a long labour with powerful drugs, absolutely exhausted, because you must achieve the Holy Grail of obstetrics, which was vaginal delivery. But all that is changing now."

Essentially, he says, this is because an elective Caesarean, performed on a fit, healthy woman, with no medical complications, is emerging as the

safest possible method of delivery for modern mothers and babies. It is a point passionately disputed by his critics. They say maternal deaths, though now very rare, are still significantly higher among women who have had elective Caesareans than those who have vaginal deliveries, and that risks of complications and problems also increase appreciably in any subsequent pregnancies once a Caesarean has been performed.

Mary Newburn, director of policy research at the National Childbirth Trust, says one of the major reasons for rising section rates is that doctors

scare women by emphasising the risks of natural childbirth, while downplaying the many dangers of surgery. "The reality is that the current Caesarean section rate is inexcusable, and one of the problems is that most doctors are still not taking it anywhere seriously enough."

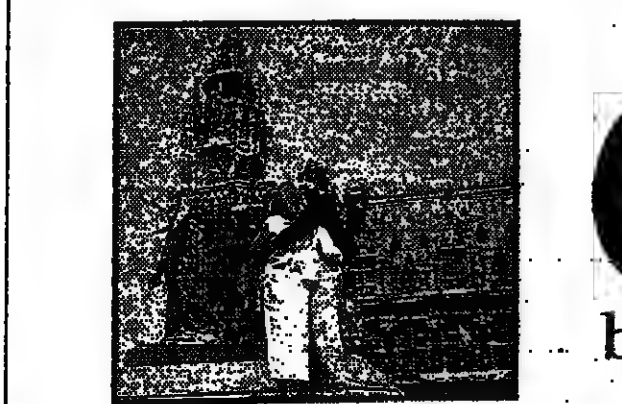
"The way to deal with concerns about any possible problems from vaginal delivery, for example, is not to perform Caesareans. It is to look very closely at the unnatural way most women are forced to give birth — flat on their backs, hooked up to machines, without assistance

from a midwife skilled in natural, low-tech techniques."

Of all Professor Fisk's arguments, the one Ms Newburn and other activists in the natural childbirth field find most infuriating is the suggestion that doctors are merely responding to patient demand, not shaping it. "Talking about 'a woman's right to choose' is just a way of hitting back at the low-tech birth movement," Ms Newburn says. "It's one thing for women to have a say in particular elements of childbirth. It's another thing entirely to say they should be able to choose a major abdominal surgery."

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Some people have an aura, a presence, an ethereal quality. Some do not. Sadly, I am of the latter. I know this because Nigel Garion Hutchings, a homeopath, has just photographed my Kirlian image.

I expected a dramatic negative — a white image of my hand burned onto the film, with tiny, black lightning streaks emanating like little explosions all around my elegant fingers. Instead I was confronted with a pathetic outline of half a palm and three skinny digits. It is the Kirlian aura of a wimp.

"I think you were holding back, perhaps through a fear of the unknown," Mr Garion Hutchings says earnestly. I reveal that I once suffered a particularly nasty electric shock, which explains my apprehension at having a high voltage discharged through me, even if it does induce a pleasant tingle.

A glowing picture of vitality

Anjana Ahuja checks out her aura with Kirlian photography

My fingers are not delineated, and this automatically discharges through the hand.

Where the charge jumps from the plate to the hand, it collides with nitrogen atoms in the air, exciting them. As the nitrogen atoms recover, they emit light. This is the luminescence captured in the Kirlian photographs, also called corona discharge images or electro-photographs.

The results are stunning: the group has been invited to pitch its wares at advertising agencies, broadcasting companies and one of the best-known sports labels. David Bowie, who has long nurtured an interest in Kirlian photog-

raphy and owns much of the work of the late Dr Thelma Moss, a leading Kirlian researcher, is to meet the group soon.

However, Mr Garion Hutchings sees the creative work as a way of funding more serious, scientific research. He wants to set up controlled trials to see whether Kirlian photography can be used to indicate mental and physical conditions, from menopausal stress and autism to cancer and HIV.

A publicity booklet for Kirlian Research states: "In time, it is believed that Kirlian Photography will be used as a reliable, non-invasive method of early diagnosis and determination of vitality." It also claims that "definite signatures for certain conditions have been recorded"; listed

conditions include cystic fibrosis and cancer. However, all the work was conducted in the Sixties and Seventies.

And if this research was so conclusive, why did Kirlian photography virtually disappear for decades? Mr Garion Hutchings says that credible researchers were scared off by the outlandish claims being made for it. "What I have," he says, "is nothing more than circumstantial and empirical evidence." Now that the general public is embracing all

things alternative, he thinks it's a good time to resurface. He adds hastily: "But I don't want to sound New Agey."

There are other obstacles. John Iovine, author of the 1994 book *Kirlian Photography: A Hands-On Guide*, notes that the unpredictability of many of the necessary conditions — conductivity of the object, pressure on the plate, air pressure and moisture, etc — makes Kirlian photography tricky to validate scientifically. Which makes Mr Garion Hutchings' prediction that it could become as widespread as the MRI scanner seem perhaps unduly optimistic.

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Favoured son of a rising land

Richard Cork on the excellent Royal Academy show of work by the 19th-century Japanese, Hiroshige

No wonder Van Gogh admired Hiroshige's colour woodcuts, and copied them so eagerly. The vitality, boldness and economy of the Japanese master excited many of the Impressionist generation, and stimulated their own work. Hiroshige was enthusiastically collected by advanced Paris artists after his prints began to be exported from Japan during the 1870s. Cheap, plentiful and deceptively modest in size, they played a potent role in the transformation of late 19th-century European art.

As this marvellous bicentenary retrospective reveals, he deserves to be relished in his own right. Rather than seeing him from an exclusively Western vantage, we need to restore Hiroshige to his native context. And this survey shows how dependent he was on the Japanese landscape, as well as the people shown moving over its plains, waterways and vertiginous slopes.

Hiroshige was born in 1797, and grew up in Edo (present-day Tokyo), already a city of more than one million inhabitants and rich in potential subjects for an ambitious young artist. Hiroshige, though, would never devote himself to images of urban life. The earliest exhibits in the RA show are elegant, almost languorous studies of a blue bird alighting on a hollyhock, or a kingfisher hovering above an iris. However recognisable both birds and flowers may be, they are not weighed down by pedantic attention to detail. Hiroshige already cultivates a pared-down approach, summarising his subjects with a mastery of essential contours. Draughtsmanship, after all, lay at the centre of his gifts.

He designed the woodblock images, rather than cutting or printing them. Expert craftsmen carried out those tasks, while Hiroshige supervised the complex process at every stage. Ink drawing was his forte, and he soon learnt how to reduce everything to a limpid, highly refined sequence of rhythmic lines.

But he only arrived at a more singular outlook by leaving the flower-and-bird images behind. They belonged to a Chinese-influenced tradition which did not encourage provocative originality, while landscapes had recently become the province of print designers who depicted the so-called "floating world".

By the early 1830s, when Hiroshige discovered his true voice, tourism was an important part of Japanese life. Visitors to fast-expanding Edo wanted souvenirs, and he shrewdly embarked on a series of "famous views in the eastern capital". He did not, however, tackle the urban sprawl. Nature remains paramount: a view of slender-masted boats in the placid Bay of Edo is capped by reddening sunset clouds, a crescent moon and a cuckoo heralding the onset of summer.

Hiroshige was not afraid to let spectacular effects burst through the serenity. Fireworks erupt and fall in long, crimson fingers towards a fishing boat moored in the bay. Snowfall on the banks of the Kanda River transforms the city into a place of enchantment, making the kimono-clad women stand out with startling clarity against the whiteness. And when Hiroshige ventures further into the city, showing visitors and courtesans eyeing each other near the pleasure district, the people suddenly seem insignificant compared with the vastness of the moon's blanched orb, looming above the flowering cherry trees.

His instinctive feeling for the drama of the natural world is only given full rein in a series called *The 53 Stations of the Tokaido Road*. Hiroshige accompanied a ceremonial procession along this coastal highway, around 1830, sketching views from the arduous journey from Edo to Kyoto. The expedition provided him with a wealth of material. But he had no intention of serving up complacent exercises in picturesque blandness. Travellers entering a coastal town find themselves assailed by a downpour from a tar-black sky. Needle-thin, the rain seems capable of piercing the huddled figures as they struggle towards shelter.

He was not afraid to let spectacular effects burst through

"An instinctive feeling for the drama of the natural world": a detail from *Shono - Sudden Rain*, one of Hiroshige's print series *53 Stations of the Tokaido Road* (c 1831-34)

Travellers appear frightened as they pass a shrine made spectral by the mist, or trudge through heavy snowfall with the weariness of people long accustomed to strife with the elements.

Many of the prints do seem preoccupied with the dangers of the wild Japanese terrain. People cross a broad, current-swirling river on a litter, looking tolylike against the immensity of the peaks beyond. Even when Hiroshige enlarges his figures and places them in the foreground of a scene, they look just as vulnerable. Ambushed by slanting rain on an exposed hillside, they bend as low as the row of trees leaning in the wind.

Far from seeing nature as something placid, Hiroshige was obsessed by its incessant changeability. A contemporary of Turner, he shared the Englishman's awareness of the landscape as a living, often awesome presence, capable of making humanity seem frail and almost laughably diminutive. Unlike Turner, though, Hiroshige was not driven by a tragic vision of the world. However beleaguered his journeying figures may appear, they manage to battle on through storm and snow-drift. They know how to improvise, seizing the chance in one poetic print to light their pipes from a nocturnal fire

under a cryptomeria tree. The flames and glowing smoke irradiate the entire locale, suggesting that Hiroshige's early years — his father was in the fire service, and had wanted his son to follow him into it — had left him with a lasting respect for the power of fire. There is no suggestion, however, that it might blaze out of control. Hiroshige's art is never apocalyptic.

On occasion, his later work has an astonishing ability to anticipate 20th-century innovation. A study of *A Large Waterfall* turns the cascade into a vertical band of luminous blue, as uncompromising as the colour running like a zip through an abstract canvas by Barnett Newman.

It would be easy to distort Hiroshige's achievement by seeing him as a precursor of modernism. He is far too infatuated with visible appearances to be seen in such a light, and yet his *View Through a Circular Window* is framed with a geometrical rigour worthy of Mondrian.

The truth is that Hiroshige's daring sometimes makes him seem nearer to our era than his own, even though this exemplary show discloses the full extent of his roots in an immemorial Asian past.

● Hiroshige at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-439 7438) until Sept 28

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

LIGHT shining from a high window only very slightly illuminates the stairs in *Angelus 1997*, a strangely elongated small painting. A light-bathed Tower provides a simplified, angular view through an impenetrable barrier. Howard Rogers has simplified his subject, playing down atmosphere in exchange for a dry, more confident sense. The city, in its strange sulphuric glow, thin watery sun, flyovers, walkways and underpasses, is conveyed now less as a matter of loss or regret than a painted fact. An obvious sense of place is replaced by an alienated quality; in *Shadow 1997* the extreme angles of a protruding grey-green corner loom, but like the ocean liner in Fellini's *Amarcord*.

Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, 84 St Peter's Street, N1 (0171-359 7002), until July 19

THE late Martin Kippenberger's work epitomises certain aspects of 1980s art. The *Hotel Drawings* are rather like souvenirs of another time. Each headed sheet is crowded

ed with drawings in a highly confident variety of styles. Various permutations, from chunky abstraction, through to delicate portraiture, are like pages torn from a sophisticated student's travel notebook. London Project, 47 Frith Street, W1 (0171-734 1723), until July 27

A NUMBER of three-dimensional objects made of shiny, metallic paper hang like Christmas decorations or Chinese lanterns. A gigantic lace doily, pinned to the wall, just about manages some of the fluttering visual fragility of Simon Periton's smaller pieces. The cutout of an owl blinks out at the space in a show which moves easily from doily to owl and back again. A continuous barbed wire outline lands in a pile upon the floor, like the peeling from an apple, to make a simple transition from two to three dimensions. Sadie Coles HQ, 35 Heddon Street, W1 (0171-434 2227), until July 26

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CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

HANDEL'S CORONATION ANTHEMS
Reviewed by Nicholas Anderson

THERE can be few more stirring and evocative sounds to a patriotic British ear than those provided by Handel's four Coronation Anthems. Handel wrote them for the Coronation of George II and his consort, Queen Caroline, which took place in Westminster Abbey on October 11, 1727, and one of the anthems, *Zadok the Priest*, has been sung at every Coronation service since.

Surprisingly, only five recordings of all four anthems are available to the collector. The performances by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge conducted by Sir David Willcocks are the oldest and best known, though they show their age in their dogged rhythmic insistence and modern instrumental support. The mixed voices of the Academy Chorus of St Martin-in-the-Fields, conducted by Sir Neville Marriner, provide a more even overview; but Handel wrote the music for boys, and the special brilliance of their



vocal timbre is a precious ingredient in its performance. There is a pleasing propriety in performances by Westminster Abbey Choir with the English Concert directed by Simon Preston; the singing is, almost throughout, engaging and tonally refined. Winches-

ter Cathedral Choir also provides an effectively blended sound, but these voices are disappointingly supported by a meagre sounding instrumental ensemble. It is the Choir of New College, Oxford with the King's Consort directed by Robert King, which provides the most consistently satisfying version of these glorious pieces. The singing is alert, expressive, homogeneous in texture and vital in spirit, and displays an awareness of textual nuance and of Handel's consummate skill in highlighting its many contrasting images (Hyperion 0630-17067-2, £14.49).

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Building a Library takes a break during the Proms, but returns to Radio 3 on Sept 13 (9am)

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هنا من الأصل

Look behind you

Giorgio Battistelli's extraordinary new piece for Almeida Opera, commissioned (bravo!) with funds from the Arts Council, is basically a melodrama in the strict sense of the term — a mixture of music and the spoken word. It's a curious form, one that flourished briefly in the 18th century with Benda's *Ariadne and Medea* (1775). Mozart was fascinated by melodrama, but his two experiments with it — *Zaide* and *Thamos* — significantly remained unfinished.

But it pops up persistently in opera, in the Wolf's Glen in *Freischütz*, the grave-digging scene in *Eldorado* at the climax

of Strauss's *Frau ohne Schatten*, right down to the final scene of Britten's *Gloriana*. Every picture, or rather every panel, tells a story; it's a short-winded form. For the first 20 minutes you are fascinated by it; the next 20 are spent wondering if it's really working; when — as in the case of Benda's pieces, and indeed the 65 minutes of Battistelli's *Cenci* — you start drumming your fingers, it's suddenly over and you go home happy.

Yet "melodrama" seems hardly adequate to describe Battistelli's riveting experiment, any more than "total theatre". It's more like "live cinema", and the dramatic texture is incredibly dense. The spoken text is a drastically cut translation of Antonin Artaud's 1935 version of this heady tale of incest in high places. Battistelli's continuous accompaniment weaves in and out of it, punctuating and drives it on with great complexity — it must have been hell to rehearse. His musical language may be modernist, but is suffused with essentially Italianate lyricism, never more so than in the romantic warmth of the textures accom-



Ian McDiarmid (Cenci) and Kathryn Pogson (Lucrezia) in a "live cinema" experiment

panying preparations for Beatrice's bawling, tenderly supervised by her stepmother. The four actors' words are amplified, echo-distorted, hurled all round the auditorium, with the tiniest whisper audible; add heavy breathing, echoing footsteps, weird clicks and groans and whinnies from every angle, and you are forever looking nervously over your shoulder just in case there's something as nasty happening behind you.

And the stage action is supplemented by film, some of it agreeably rude, some of it constructive: the idea of the

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And the stage action is supplemented by film, some of it agreeably rude, some of it constructive: the idea of the

From Persia with love

THERE can be little doubt about the technical quality of Vic Hoyland's latest orchestral work. Lasting well over half an hour and requiring a percussion section so large that, on its first performance at the Cheltenham Festival, the BBC Symphony Orchestra had to spill out into the Town Hall auditorium. *Vixen* is an impressive achievement.

Why it is called *Vixen* is a long story. It is an expanded and more sensual treatment of material used in an earlier work called *Fox*. It also has to do with the composer's interest in an 18th-century Persian

scholar, Ibn Sina, known in Europe as Avicenna, and with the architecture of the Centre for the Arab World in Paris and the sunlight falling on its facade. And that's the problem. *Fox*, *Vixen*, *Avicenna*. Vixen's sun: while all these components might add up to something compellingly logical in Vic Hoyland's mind, to the average ticket-holder in Cheltenham Town Hall they are meaningless.

But the score is so well crafted that it inspired much thrillingly brilliant playing from the BBC SO under the direction of Markus Stenz. The daringly slow, sustained violin line in the fourth of the five movements might not touch the emotions, but the way acoustic light is reflected from it, in tiny particles of percussion and harp sounds, is quite beautiful.

It was no doubt as a refuge from the stresses to come in *Vixen* that Stenz favoured such a sunny account of Brahms's Second Symphony, although Susan Bickley's performance of Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* was less convincing.

RODNEY MILNES

GERALD LARNER

More than frolics needed at the spa

In the 19 years since Frank Matcham's 1903 gem of an opera house was superbly refurbished the Buxton Festival has had more than its fair share of tribulations. As has the spa town itself. The superb Crescent, shamefully allowed to crumble into dereliction, has now — courtesy of English Heritage money — been sandblasted back into respectability, externally at least. Unfortunately, Matcham's plans for refurbishing the interiors have been rejected by various lottery bodies, so Derbyshire's most elegant staid remains boarded up.

That partial patch-up could serve as a metaphor for the festival. This year it has recovered to the extent that it can again mount its own opera staging. It has also appointed that fine baritone Donald Maxwell as artist in residence, thus ensuring that a vein of vocal excellence runs through the fortnight. Yet Buxton still needs to rediscover the vital impulse of its early festivals.

True, the opening weekend's jolly diet of comic opera (sponsored by the Cromwell Clinic) was competently

delivered to general rapture. But something more unusual will be needed if opera buffs are again to be lured to the Peak District. Wedford's exemplary festival should be studied.

The festival's own staging was a triple bill of Cimarosa's *Il maestro di Cappella*, Menotti's *The Telephone* and Wolf-Ferrari's *Susanna's Secret*. Maxwell himself blustered to good effect as the maestro with the imperfect grasp of his own score in Cimarosa's relentlessly frolicsome 18th-century satire, while the English Northern Philharmonia, elevated to the stage, gleefully played his adversary.

Maxwell was back later for *Susanna's Secret*. Here his bumptious husband was perfectly counterpointed by the estimable Linda Kitchen as the lady whose guilty secret is... smoking. How quaint this 1807 tangle of misadventure seems: the jealous husband is full of loving approval when he discovers that his wife has not been having a bit on the side, but only a

drag on the quiet. Today, of course, smoking is regarded as a far more heinous sin than adultery; a clever producer should try reversing the plot.

Between these two miniature masterpieces Menotti's comedy of Manhattan manners *La la* 1947 was winsomely played by two rising stars: Liza Pulman and Nicholas Garrett. All three operas were staged in an attractive Magritte-like set by Mark Bailey, pacifically directed by Stuart Hopps and neatly conducted by Enrique Mazzola.

The weekend's other offering was less convincing. *Life on the Moon* is far more than a new translation of Haydn's "star-gazing" opera *Il mondo della Luna*. James Conway's version for Ireland's Opera Theatre Company condenses three acts to two and takes other liberties. At first the results are sharp and cogent, as a boorish miser is tricked into believing himself transported to a lunar landscape where men hold sway over submissive women.

But when the cast reaches "the moon" the action dribbles into tedium, and strained rhythmic couplets about big telescopes achieving "complete penetration" soon grow wearisome. Indeed, the tone leaves a slightly nasty taste in the mouth, and the music is not vintage Haydn, though the orchestral effects are sometimes ingenious.

Yet with Harry Nicol pulling the strings as the common astrologer, Margaret Preece pumping out some stressful colouratura as the rebellious daughter, and Colette McGahan making the most of the lyrical moments as the lusted-after servant girl, Hilary Westlake's knockabout staging was certainly put across with energy. And in the pit Andrew Synnott coaxed mostly aly playing from the Northern Chamber Orchestra. An entertaining evening, then, but a festival that once dared to stage *Beatrice and Benedict* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* must raise its sights again, or risk falling the "so what" test.

RICHARD MORRISON

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Don't trust the experts on sterling

The strong pound is here to stay, says Anatole Kaletsky

The idea of continuous economic decline is deeply ingrained in the British psyche. On Friday evening the pound rose for the first time in seven years above three German marks and ten French francs. Only ten days before that it had broken through the ill-fated exchange rate of DM2.95 chosen in 1990 by John Major to anchor Britain for ever into the European Monetary System.

Less than a year ago, the pound was worth only about DM2.20 and British exporters could therefore sell their goods in European markets for roughly 20 per cent below the prices they now charge. This sudden surge of the currency has been faster than the pound's fall after Black Wednesday and far more dramatic than sterling devaluations of 1967 and 1949.

For manufacturers and exporters who are forced either to lose sales or to cut the prices they charge in foreign markets by 20 per cent, this currency appreciation can mean disaster. Yet, to people in the street, the strong pound hardly seems worthy of attention. They may have noticed Japanese electronics and German cars getting cheaper, and they will certainly enjoy more purchasing power for their holiday money in France and Spain. But nobody would dream of considering the 20 per cent appreciation in sterling as a political event — still less a political crisis.

One reason for public indifference is obvious. A weak currency tends to cause rising prices and thus hurts consumers, even while it helps manufacturers and exporters. A strong currency, by contrast, makes imported goods cheaper and consumers better off. Eventually people may start to complain about an overvalued exchange rate, but only after the exporting companies have started going bankrupt and laying off workers — a process which typically takes a year or so.

The second reason for indifference is more interesting, since it also explains why economic policy is always too slow to react to leaps in sterling and why these leaps tend to be so sudden and steep. The British never believe that the strong pound can last. The Government and the Bank of England always assume that an over-strong exchange rate is "unsustainable" and therefore resist the policy measures that would bring the pound down.

Industrialists believe it is only a matter of time before the pound returns to a "realistic" level and so fail to protect themselves by hedging their export earnings until it is too late. And financial commentators encourage this complacency by loudly proclaiming that the high exchange rate cannot last and advising their clients to sell pounds, instead of buying them. Eventually industrialists and financiers start to panic when the forecasts turn out to be wrong. They then buy sterling at much higher levels than any of them imagined possible a few

months before — and this panic buying pushes the currency up another stage, with the Government and the City loudly proclaiming that the process cannot last.

This is exactly what is happening today. I noticed commentators in the Sunday papers suggesting that the pound had now become so "overvalued" that readers might do well to open foreign bank accounts and exchange their sterling savings into francs and marks. A survey of City and academic economists published yesterday by Reuters showed that, on average, they expected the pound to decline to DM2.83 by the end of this year and to DM2.60 by the end of 1998. Not one of the 20 forecasters expected the pound to remain above DM3 next year.

These forecasts must come as a great relief to Britain's industrialists as well as to Gordon Brown and the Bank of England. There is only one problem. When these same people were polled by Reuters in April, their average expectation was that the pound would be down to DM2.70 by now; not one of them thought it would go as high as DM2.85.

Why the experts are all so confident that the pound will fall back in the months ahead is unclear. Britain already has the highest interest rates in the civilised world and, with Eddie George in charge at the Bank of England, they are bound to move at least a little higher. Our trade deficit is very small, despite the fact that we are in the midst of a consumer boom while most of our trading partners are only just crawling out of recession. And Britain is not about to follow Germany in exchanging its currency for one managed by France, Italy and Spain.

Another point that is often missed is that labour costs in Britain are still 40 per cent lower than in western Germany and six per cent lower than in France. This means that modern businesses in Britain with productivity levels comparable to those of Germany and France will continue to make good profits, even with the pound well above where it is today. But while Japanese-owned car manufacturers and the City financial firms continue to prosper, thousands of the moderately successful but less well-equipped manufacturers in Britain's industrial heartland will go to the wall, as they did in 1980-81 and 1990-92.

It seems all too likely, therefore, that the experts will again be confounded. The pound will continue rising, especially against the mark, which is now the world's weakest leading currency — falling this year not only against sterling, the yen and the dollar, but also against the lira and the franc. It will "fall back to earth" only when the damage done to British industry has become so painful and so undeniable that the Bank is forced to relent. For many of Britain's mid-sized manufacturers and exporters that will be, by definition, too late.



"IF ONLY WE WERE ALLOWED A CIGARETTE AFTERWARDS..."

Our sexual supermarket

The age-of-consent debate is really about liberal views of sex, says Roger Scruton

The Government, like many liberal people in this country, has been persuaded that the age of consent for homosexual intercourse should be lowered. It seems like blatant discrimination to require homosexuals to wait until they are 18 before enjoying the rights accorded to heterosexuals two years earlier. This is certainly what the European Court of Human Rights would be likely to decide, and if you respect that court, as our Government does, you have little choice but to change the law.

But are liberals right to think as they do? In the politically correct atmosphere of an American university you can no longer ask that question. Liberalism is an intolerant creed, which regards dissent as the voice of oppression and covers it with ridicule. Nevertheless, there are many people who are opposed to the easy equation of heterosexual and homosexual intercourse, without knowing why. They deserve to be heard, not least because they are the majority.

Traditional sexual morality was centred on marriage, conceived as the lifelong union of man and woman, from whom a family would grow. All other sexual activity was regarded with disfavour. Of course, it was recognised that adults would get up to monkey business; but the main goal of sexual conduct — marriage and family — was never seriously doubted. A large part of sexual morality consisted in the strictures required if young people were to make successful marriages. Women were taught to hesitate, to retreat before sexual predators, to be chaste, on the assumption that nothing else would make them worth the enormous price demanded of their future husbands — the price of a lifetime's commitment. Men were taught to honour women, to regard them as needing their protection, and to stay the course of marriage. But a blind eye was turned to their youthful peccadilloes, in recognition of the privations to come.

Meanwhile, the whole artefact — and sexual morality is an artefact — was fortified by an idea of normal sexual desire, and a socially enforced distinction between normal and perverted conduct. The sexual act, it was thought, leads of its own accord to sexual habits. And there is a great distinction to be made between the habits required by a lifelong commitment and the habits which lead to a life of self-indulgent pleasure.

The fact that this morality, or something like it, has emerged and endured almost everywhere is a clear sign that it has served our species well. True, there have been attempts by anthropologists to discover the living proof that alternatives can flourish. But the most famous instance — Margaret Mead, in Samoa — based her conclusions on evidence which has since been entirely exploded. Until encountering liberals, it seems, the Samoans were just like everybody else.

And that is true of the rest of us. Until encountering liberals, Western societies endorsed the idea of normal sexual desire; they endorsed the distinction between normal and perverted conduct; and they regarded marriage as the difficult but necessary consummation of our sexual endeavours, to be enshrined in a vow of unending commitment. And then the liberals came on the scene. The "vow" became a contract between "consenting adults" who wrote the terms according to their own requirements. Children lost their special place in the sexual project and became by-products, to be avoided if possible until their cost could be met. Easy divorce, legalised abortion, and a growing acceptance of cohabitation without commitment effectively wrote the next generation out of the script. And you have only to take a glance at the next generation to realise that young people don't grow up as they should when they have been written out of their parents' script.

The triumph of liberalism has led not merely to a change in sexual mores, but to a change in the concept of sex. People no longer make love; instead they "have sex". Sexual behaviour is routinely described with an explicitness that removes the air of shame and mystery. Reduced to a bodily function, desire is emancipated from morality, and placed on display in the supermarket of pleasure. Sexual desire then ceases to be focused on the other person, con-

Gay subculture puts boys more at risk from predators than girls

as a woman, but not from the same glass as a man.

The liberal conception of sex is adopted because it is easy, but not because it is true to human nature. We are bringing up children to regard sex as a commodity, and their sexual partners as interchangeable means to pleasure, rather than as objects of love and commitment. But we benefit nobody by this, least of all the children. Unless children see the sexual act as an awakening to adult life, in which a great risk is involved, and in which the other person is the true object of desire and love, their sexuality remains stunted and threatens to become antisocial.

If we reject the liberal conception of sex we must also reject the easy equation of homosexual and heterosexual intercourse. According to the traditional idea, the sexual act involves passing a threshold: it requires us to move outwards from the self into a realm that is partly unknown and in the normal case not fully knowable. Sexual possession is also a moral awakening, and a peculiar sense of responsibility comes from recognising that you have awakened

feelings which could never be yours. The heterosexual therefore makes himself more vulnerable in the sexual act, and in consequence more a suitor for love and understanding than the homosexual. Sex for him is a foreign country, which he enters safely only with a trusted guide.

This helps to explain a fact that is more easily observed than commented upon: the fact that male homosexuals have a tendency to promiscuity. Unimpeded by the shame which governs women, the male homosexual may hasten to arouse in the other feelings which he knows in himself. The natural predatoriness of the male is shared by both partners, and the body of the one holds no mystery for the other. When the experience of the other is so familiar and predictable, and so shorn of any moral cost, no obstacle lies before the quick fix. Sex is becoming not just a commodity, but a disposable one.

For a great many homosexuals, the preferred object of desire is a youth. Plato describes this feature as an integral part of the experience, and he is probably right. But he also condemns homosexual intercourse for this very reason, because it impedes the higher love for youth which is the teacher's true vocation. In an age which regards repression as a fault, and which scoffs at the Platonic idea, as it scoffs at every form of chastity, the search for the youthful body becomes an explicit part of the homosexual subculture. And that is why, in the modern world, boys are more at risk from predators than girls. Reject the liberal view of sex, and it ceases to be obvious that the age of consent for one kind of intercourse should be the same as the age of consent for the other.

But Plato points us to a deeper question. Certain people in every generation are attracted to their own sex, and especially to the young of their own sex. These people have traditionally been among the most useful and heroic members of society. Taught to repress desires which could be neither expressed nor acknowledged, they took a generalised and non-familial interest in the young. They were the priests, teachers, Scoutmasters and team coaches: fathers or "mothers" to everyone's children. But what remains of that most valuable of human resources, when the element of sexual prohibition has been removed?

Libby Purves is away.

Ministry of all the talents

Out with the old, in with the cool, says Chris Smith

Yesterday the Department of National Heritage became the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Why change the name of a five-year-old department? Does it matter? When Tony Blair asked me to take on this job, I told him that one of my priorities would be to find a name that better reflected the responsibilities and ambitions of a department whose work is of growing significance in our lives, economy and sense of national identity. The name Department of National Heritage was as inadequate and as partial as its unofficial alternative, the Ministry of Fun. Worse, it was inaccurate. Heritage looks to the past. We look to the future.

I have given the DCMS an overall aim: "To improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities, and to strengthen the creative industries." I want to bring excitement into the life of the nation and the work of the Government; to make real quality of life available for the many, not just the few; and to create jobs for the future.

Culture is itself a word that arouses passions. The department's interests cover the spectrum of life in Britain, from the popular culture of music, television and the drama of the lottery draw to those areas of the arts which, in Matthew Arnold's classic definition of culture, are "a pursuit of total perfection by means of getting to know... the best which has been thought and said in the world". "Culture" is the word that best sums up the core of the new department's areas of responsibility, and is the term now used by the vast majority of European governments.

The media are among the most potent forces in our cultural life. They are the means by which most of us enjoy most of our access to and experience of both the arts and sport and much else besides. Their contribution to the economy is huge — and growing. They wield powers of patronage that far outweigh the financial resources of either the Arts Council or the Sports Council. To fail to acknowledge that or to ignore the need to maintain quality and diversity of the media, is to shut our eyes to reality.

Sport is included in the title (for the first time) because it, too, is a vital force in our lives. Success and failure in sport raises or lowers national spirits more than almost anything — remember the first Test in the current Ashes series. Sport, too, is a crucial part of the definition of who we are as a nation.

The new department represents much more than a change of name. It is a change of direction. It is a recognition that cultural and leisure activities are of growing significance. Not only to individuals; they are also of rapidly growing economic importance.

They are the basic fuel of our hugely successful international tourist industry, and the heart of a series of activities in which Britain is genuinely a world leader — from music, theatre, television and software to such rising industries as fashion, advertising, product design and architecture.

"Cool Britannia" is here to stay. Employment in the cultural industries has consistently grown against a background of almost no change in the rest of the economy.

The continuing strength of our "creative industries" opens up the prospect of Britain enjoying immense competitive advantage in the decades ahead, as economic activity becomes even more global and even more competitive. These creative industries go much wider than any conventional definition of the arts, but they are all dependent on the talent and skill of individuals, which means that all of them are ultimately fed by the quality of our artistic and cultural environment. It is part of the Government's role to ensure that environment is rich and stimulating. The creative industries are a dynamic new sector of today's economy, and make an impact on our everyday lives. We want to ensure that they continue to thrive.

That is why Tony Blair has asked me to set up and chair a task force, which will include representatives of the Government and some of our most successful creative entrepreneurs — people like Richard Branson, David Puttnam and Paul Smith. These are the people who understand how to build and develop creative businesses. They will help us to ensure that, right across Government, we provide the support and encouragement needed to help them to continue to thrive. They will be a powerhouse of ideas.

Employment and wealth generation, important as they are, do not represent the sum total of the Government's interest or responsibility. Our primary concern is, as it should be, with the quality of life in every community in the country.

Culture, the media and sport go to the very heart of what it means to be a civilised society. They are also areas of great and growing national strength. We should celebrate them and build on them. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will play a full and active role in doing so.

The author is Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Poor show

OF all the charges being levelled at Lord Chiddingfold, the besieged chairman of the Royal Opera House, none is quite so awful as the way he has treated a poor 82-year-old woman whose only crime was to give her proudest possession to his outfit.

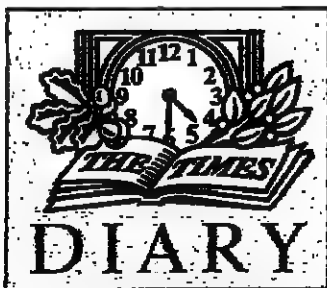
It was like the parable of the widow's mite when, in 1987, Claire

de Robillant, an immigrant of Polish and Chilean descent, offered the Opera House a 19th-century French clock topped by a figure of Carlotta Grisi, the dancer who first played Giselle. She had become worried that it was too valuable to keep in her council flat. The house gratefully accepted her gift and displayed it on the chimney-piece in the anteroom to the royal box.

At the beginning of last week, Mrs de Robillant wrote to Chiddingfold offering to take the clock back, for safekeeping, during all the rebuilding at Covent Garden. They could have it back when they reopened. She received no reply.

Then, on Saturday, the archivist at Covent Garden telephoned in a terrible state to say the clock had been stolen. The police have pictures of it and the auction houses have been alerted, but for Mrs de Robillant, it is too much.

"I had a stroke this year and my legs are like spaghetti," she says. "Now this." She suspects an inside job, or else a rival in the vicious world of dance historians. "I cannot stand that Chiddingfold," she says. "He is a Gummer, not



Hmmm. Tomorrow, I am going to dictate a stinker of a letter to him."

As Diana, Princess of Wales, and her two sons find themselves hugged by Mohamed Al Fayed off the South of France, there are echoes of King Edward VII's liking for sailing with Sir Thomas Lipton, the tea magnate. While still the Prince of Wales, Edward was taunted by the Kaiser for "boating with his grocer". His mother, Queen Victoria, even wrote him a letter of admonishment: "If ever you become King, you will find all these friends most inconvenient and will have to break with them all."

Handouts

SADDLED with an embarrassingly large overdraft at Coutts, Prince

and Princess Michael of Kent are relying on the British Red Cross for their feed. The couple have been invited by the society to dine free at its ball at London's Grosvenor House Hotel in September. The remaining 1,000 guests must pay £250 a head for their Pommery champagne, beluga caviar and raspberry pavlova.

After the *petits fours*, there will be a chance for Prince Michael, a man renowned for his expensive taste in cars, to win a Jaguar XK8 sports car in the charity raffle. "The Prince and Princess will be guests of honour," say the Red Cross. "The pleasure is ours."



Princess Michael: hot dinners

Lolita Aitken, the separated wife of Jonathan Aitken, has been shedding the Tory wife twin-set in which she supported her husband to the edge of the abyss and no further. Flying in from Paris, in Portugal, on Saturday, she was spotted in an Essex Girl outfit of shorts, T-shirt and suede fringe jacket.

Only when the plane reached London did she slip into a pair of chic leggings and whack on the wig and dark glasses in which she appeared in the Sunday newspapers.

Closed deal

WHEN Johnny Geller, a literary agent at Curtis Brown, received a manuscript from an author calling himself Anonymous, he thought, here goes, another one trying to write a *Primary Colors*. In fact, the novel, *The Book of Dead Authors*, had been written by his assistant, Emlyn Rees, 25, who in between all the office photocopying had put it together and sent it to his boss under a pseudonym.

"I received this thriller," said Geller, "read it and passed it onto Emlyn for a second opinion, which I often do. He had a look, gave it back to me and told me it was definitely worth a read. I invited the author in and a week later Emlyn

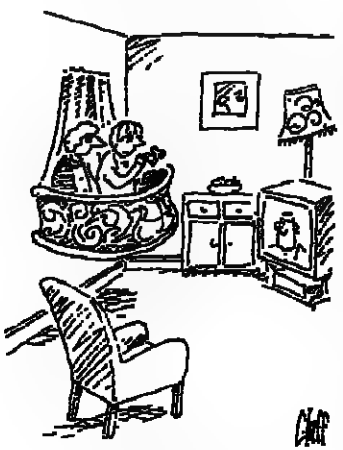


Emlyn Rees: under cover

confessed he was the culprit." Impressed, Geller got his assistant a five-figure, two-book deal with Headline. "It was about enough to keep him happy, but it wasn't enough for him to leave us," says Geller.

"It was all rather covert," says Rees, "but I wanted him to have an objective opinion of it. When he asked me to have a look at it, I laughed. I told him that he must carry on with that one."

P.H.S



"Eric brought it home from the Royal Opera House, where he's working"

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 14: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by The Prince of Wales, this morning attended a Service in St Giles' Cathedral for the Installation of Lady Marion Fraser as a Lady of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle and of the Viscount of Arbutnot, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres and the Lord Macfarlane of Badenoch and the Dean of the Thistle and the Minister of St Giles' (the Very Reverend Gillesbuig Macmillan).

Her Majesty and Her Royal Highnesses were received at St Giles' Cathedral by the Chancellor of the Thistle (the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry) and the Dean of the Thistle and the Minister of St Giles' (the Very Reverend Gillesbuig Macmillan). Lord Eskdale (Page of Honour to the Queen) was in attendance.

A Guard of Honour formed by The Queen's Body Guard of Scotland, Royal Company of Archers, with the Colours of the Royal Company, under the command of Brigadier, Captain George Burnett, and accompanied by the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division, was mounted in Parliament Square West.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Luncheon Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the Knights of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

The following were invited: The Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry, the Earl and Countess of Wessex and March, Colonel Sir Donald and Lady Cameron of Lochiel, the Earl and Countess of Elgin and Kincardine, the Lord and Lady Thomson of Monifieth, the Lord and Lady Maclellan of Beoch, the Earl and Countess of Argyll, Captain Sir Iain and Lady Margaret Tennant, the Viscount and Viscountess of Whitehall, the Viscount and Viscountess of Arbutnot, the Earl and Countess of Crawford and Balcarres, Lady Marion Fraser and Sir William Fraser, the Lord and Lady Macfarlane of Badenoch, the Very Reverend Gillesbuig Macmillan (Dean of the Thistle), Lord Malcolm Innes of Edingburgh (Lord Lyon

King of Arms), Rear Admiral Christopher Layman (Gentleman Usher of the Green Rod) and Lord Eskdale (Page of Honour to the Queen).

Her Majesty and Her Royal Highnesses left the Palace of Holyroodhouse this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 14: The Duke of York today visited Ross and Cromarty and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Captain Roderick Stirling of Falkland).

His Royal Highness this morning visited Moor United, Ainslie.

The Duke of York this afternoon opened the new Visitors' Centre at the Glenmorangie Distillery, Tain.

His Royal Highness later visited the Invergowrie Leisure Centre, Invergowrie.

The Duke of York afterwards visited Zonal Audio Plastics, Invergowrie.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

July 14: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon, at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, attended a presentation to employers in Scotland on the work of the Trust's Volunteers Programme and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost) and the Secretary of State for Scotland (the Rt Hon Donald Dewar MP).

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Royal Opera, this evening attended a Farewell Gala Concert at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, to mark the closure of the House for its redevelopment.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 14: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Sandwich, President, the Royal Ballet, this evening attended a Farewell Gala Concert by Artists of the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera, to mark the closure for redevelopment of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

July 14: The Duke of Kent this evening attended a Gala Performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2.

Birthdays today

The Sultan of Brunei celebrates his 51st birthday today.

Mr John Balding, motorcycle trainer, 52; Professor Sir James Ball, former chairman, Legal and General, 60; Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, astronomer, 54; Sir John Birrell, composer, 63; Mr Julian Bream, guitarist and lutenist, 64; Mr Geoffrey Burgon, composer, 60; Lord Buxton of Alton, 76; Mr M.A. Cadden, 70; Mr Robert Conquest, writer, 80; Professor Sir David Cox, FRS, former Warden, Nuffield College, Oxford, 78; Sir Alexander Duff, a former president, A.S. 82; Captain Sir Malcolm Edge, former Deputy Master, Trinity House, 66; Mr M.A. Elliott, former general administrator, National Theatre, 61; Mr Martin Rev Sir Peter Fraser, 90; Sir

Simon Gounay, former president, National Farmers' Union, 63; Sir John Graham, diplomat, 71; Sir Ronald Hatfield, former Chief Constable, West Midlands, 58; Mr R. Hammond, author, 82; Mr John An Jellicoe, playwright and theatre director, 70; Mr C.H. Kelly, former Chief Constable, Staffordshire, 67; Sir Larry Lamb, former Editor, Daily Express, 80; Mr Henry McCubbin, former MEP, 55; Professor Brenda Milner, FRS, neuropsychologist, 79; Dame Iris Murdoch, novelist, 78; Mr Keith O'Connell, group chief executive, Blue Circle Industries, 60; Mrs Julie Pannett, portrait painter, 80; Miss Linda Ronsdale, singer, 51; Mr Ron Smith, trade unionist, 82; Air Chief Marshal Sir Rutim Wade, 78; Lord Winston, 57.



Maori warriors demonstrate their glancing eyes and protruding tongues — key features of a haka, the fiercest of the Maori war dances, which they will be performing at the Royal Tournament that opens today at Earls Court, London. Seventy Maori warriors and maidens from the New Zealand Armed Services will take part

Company of Water Conservators

The Lord Mayor was presented with a measure of Thames Water in an inscribed glass jug by Mr Bruce Hewitt, Master of the Company of Water Conservators, at a presentation held yesterday at the Mansion House to mark the 800th anniversary of the sale of the Conservancy of the River Thames by Richard I to the Corporation of London on July 14, 1197. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of Thames Water and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency were among those present.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League Professor Clement Dodd was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

Luncheon

Royal Club of London Mr Clifford Charles, President of the Royal Club of London, presided at the luncheon held yesterday at the Portman Hotel, Sir Sigmund Sternberg also spoke. Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the Diplomatic Corps were among those present.

Inner Temple

Chief Justice Phipps-How Yong, Richard A. Posner and Professor Andrew Ashworth, FBA, have been elected Honorary Members of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Archaeology booms as more join digs

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 100,000 people in Britain are probably involved in archaeology, according to a recent survey. They include 115,000 members of local and national archaeological societies, but only 70 full-time professional archaeologists.

The survey, carried out by the magazine *Current Archaeology*, which itself reports a rise in circulation to more than 14,000 copies, is "a snapshot of British archaeology as a whole", according to Andrew Selkirk, its editor. The magazine's 152nd issue, celebrating its 30th year of publication, appeared recently, accompanied by a "Directory of British Archaeology" listing the diverse organisations which promote the study of our past.

"There are 729 entries, of which 399 are societies," Mr Selkirk said. "There are also 118 professional organisations, 37 universities teaching archaeology, and 52 county archaeologists who advise on the planning process and whether excavations should be carried out."

More than 136,000 members support the diversity of bodies listed: although many people belong to more than one society, the total almost

certainly runs into six figures. "Societies come in all shapes and sizes," Mr Selkirk said. "This directory will help those who wish to find out more."

Nearly 100 organisations will accept volunteers for excavations and other fieldwork, and are highlighted in the directory with a smiling face, but some of the better-known ones "are booked up years in advance". Some dig charge for participation, but what Mr Selkirk calls "imaginative schemes for volunteers" still exist this year at the Eton Boating Lake dig, at Colchester and at Sedgeford in Norfolk.

At the academic end of British archaeology, there are nearly 2,500 undergraduates reading for first degrees, and nearly 1,200 working towards MAs and PhDs. At the other end, directory entries range from the Archaeological Diving Unit at St Andrews, studying wrecks through the Quays Study Group working on ancient griddings, to "Unexpected Archaeological Discovery Insurance", for that welcome find on the site of your new office block.

Current Archaeology, 9 Nassington Rd, London NW3 2TX. (0171 435 7517).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Inigo Jones, architect, London, 1573; Rembrandt, painter, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1639; Henry Edward Manning, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, 1855-92, Tottenham, Hertfordshire, 1808; Vilfredo Pareto, economist, Paris, 1848; Alfred Harnsworth, US Vice-President, proprietor of *The Times* 1906-22, Dublin, 1855; Dame Marie Tempest, actress, London, 1866; José Enrique Rodó, philosopher, Montevideo, 1872.

DEATHS: Rudolf I, Holy Roman emperor, founder of the Hapsburg dynasty, Spire, 1291; James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of King Charles II, executed, London, 1685; John Wilson, born, Kendal, Cumbria, 1751; Thomas Dermody, poet, London, 1802; Jean-Antoine Houdon, sculptor, Paris, 1828; Winthrop Mackworth Praed, poet and politician, London, 1839; Karl Czerny, pianist and music teacher, Vienna, 1857; Gottfried Keller, novelist and poet, Hettlingen, 1895; Anton Chekhov, author, Badenweiler, Germany, 1904; Ernst Bloch, composer, Portland, Oregon, 1959; Paul Gallico, novelist, Canada, 1976.

Today is St Swithun's Day. Jerusalem was taken by the Crusaders, 1099. The Royal Society received its charter, 1662. Napoleon Bonaparte surrendered to the captain of *HMS Bellerophon*, 1815. The National Insurance Act came into force in Britain, 1912.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a garden party at Buckingham Palace as part of the celebrations for the Golden Wedding Anniversary at 4.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron and Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend a lunch at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, at 12.40. Later he will attend the Cottage Homes (the charity of the fashion and stores trade) dinner at St James's Palace at 7.00.

The Prince of Wales, as President, Business in the Community, will attend the launch of their Principles of Corporate Community Investment at 1 Whitehall Place, Westminster at 6.10.

Prince Edward, as Patron, will take the salute at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron, SENSE - The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, will open Blackmarston (Special School) new building, Horndu Close, Hereford at 10.40; will open Ross Community Hospital, Alton Street, Ross-on-Wye, at 11.45; and will open the Kidderminster Library, Market Street, at 2.00.

Princess Margaret, as Honorary President, the British Museum Development Trust will attend the annual dinner at the Museum at 8.00 for patrons and other friends of the museum.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Deputy President, will visit the East of England Agricultural Society Show, Peterborough at 11.00.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Fair will attend the annual dinner at Claridge's at 7.15. Princess Alexandra will visit St Katherine's House, Ormond Road, Wantage at 5.00.

Appointment

Mr Nigel Brownfield is to be Director of the Ditchley Foundation, the retirement of Sir Michael Quinlan in August 1999.

Church news

New Bishops of Newcastle and Sheffield. The Right Rev Jack Nicholls, Bishop of Lancaster in the diocese of Blackburn is to be the next Bishop of Sheffield, succeeding the Right Rev David Lunn who retires at the end of August.

The Right Rev Martin Wharton, Area Bishop of Kingston-upon-Thames in the diocese of Southwark, is to be the next Bishop of Newcastle, succeeding the Right Rev Alan Graham who retires at the end of June.

New Archdeacons of Huntingdon. Canon John Beer, Vicar, Grantchester (Ely) and Co-Director of Ordinands, is to be Archdeacon of Huntingdon, remaining Co-Director of Ordinands (same diocese).

The Rev David Adams, Curate (NSM), St Ely, Sea Mills (Bristol) is to be Curate, Henbury (same diocese).

The Rev Steven Betts, Chaplain to the Bishop of Norwich (Norwich).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P.D. Gibson and Miss C.J. Haslam. The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of the late Sir Alexander Gibson and of Lady Gibson, and Carina, only daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Michael Haslam.

Mr S.C. Boulton and Miss S.E. Brooker. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Boulton, of Crowborough, East Sussex, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Brooker, of Little Easton, Essex.

Mr B.L. Clifford and Miss S.L. Picking. The engagement is announced between Benjamin, younger son of Mr Brian Clifford, of Sissinghurst, Kent, and Mrs Jenny Clifford, of Bermondsey, London, and Lucy, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Christopher Picking, of Great Dunford, Wiltshire.

Mr S.O. France and Miss C.A.M. Pilkington. The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Gilbert and Thea France, of Chelmsley, High Peak, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Beryl Pilkington, of Fillingley, Warwickshire.

Mr A.M. Glover and Miss V.L. Ricketts. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr G.M. Glover and the late Mrs M. Glover, of Horsham, Sussex, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Ricketts, of Ayr St Lawrence, Herefordshire.

Mr R. Grainger and Miss G. Virag. Gabrielle and Richard announce their engagement. They will be married in April 1998.

Mr A.J. Garth and Miss S.E. Griffiths. The marriage took place on Saturday, July 12, at St Michael's Church, Chelmsley, between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Garth, of Salsdon, Lancashire, and Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs L.S. Griffiths, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.

The marriage took place on Saturday, July 12, at St Michael's Church, Chelmsley, between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Garth, of Salsdon, Lancashire, and Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs L.S. Griffiths, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

"Teacher," they said, "we know that what you teach is not only what you pay attention to, but also what you love. We love you, and we love what you teach."

BIRTHS

ANTHONY - On July 10, 1997, a son, Anthony, born to Mr and Mrs John and Jane, at 11.15, weighing 7lb 10oz, length 19in, head 13in, feet 10in, all measurements at birth.

BROWNE - On July 10, 1997, a son, Brown, born to Mr and Mrs John and Jane, at 11.15, weighing 7lb 10oz, length 19in, head 13in, feet 10in, all measurements at birth.

CARR - On July 10, 1997, a son, Carr, born to Mr and Mrs John and Jane, at 11.15, weighing

OBITUARIES

ALEXANDRA DANILOVA

Alexandra Danilova, ballet dancer, died on July 13 aged 93. She was born on November 20, 1903.

In a delightful book of memoirs, Alexandra Danilova described the upheavals in family life which marked her earliest years. Born in Petrohof, near St. Petersburg, Alexandra Dyonisiyevna Danilova was orphaned in infancy. She was adopted by a wealthy St. Petersburg family, and entered the Imperial Ballet School in 1911. Her years of study saw the end of the tsarist regime, the hardships of war and the early revolutionary years.

In 1920, however, Danilova graduated into what was now the State Ballet company (the Kirov) at the Mariyinsky Theatre in Petrograd. Among her friends at school was George Balanchine, and in the summer of 1924 he invited Danilova, already a soloist with the ballet, to join him on a tour of Germany with two other dancers.

The effect of Western plenty upon this group of gifted young artists, accustomed to the privations of life in the Soviet Union, was considerable. More crucial was an invitation from Sergei Diaghilev, ever on the lookout for new talent, to join his Ballets Russes, and in December 1924 Balanchine, his wife Tamara Gevargievna, Nicholas Efimov and Danilova became part of the Diaghilev troupe.

Danilova was soon taking leading roles with Diaghilev. She was a pupil of Vaganova and Anna Johansson, and her elegant classical style and the sparkling wit she could bring to choreography marked her out as an outstanding artist.

For Diaghilev's company she created several roles, notably in *The Triumph of Neptune* and *Le Bal* by

Balanchine, with whom she was now emotionally involved. After Diaghilev's death and the disbanding of the Ballets Russes, Danilova eventually found work dancing for a year in London in the musical *Waltzes from Vienna*. Here she married an Italian engineer, but the marriage did not last long.

In 1933 Danilova was invited to join the revived Ballet Russe company, now being directed by Colonel de Basil. Here she returned to certain ballets in which she had already shone with Diaghilev — *Petrushka*, the second act of *Swan Lake* — and gained a new reputation as a ballerina with which her name was ever afterwards to be associated: *Le Bourgeois Fier*, *La Boutique Fantasque* and *Le Beau Danube*. In these the charm of her temperament as well as her beauty won over audiences wherever the company performed.

The itinerant life of the Ballet Russe in the 1930s was exhausting, with lengthy American tours between the grander seasons in New York and European cities. As leading ballerina of the company, Danilova set standards of professionalism and grace which were vital to the image and discipline of the company, as she was to do with every company she was associated with later.

In 1938, when Massine helped to form the new Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Danilova joined him, sharing the position of prima ballerina with Alicia Markova, a life-long friend. With the Monte Carlo troupe, of which she was the star for the next 14 years of its mainly American existence, Danilova became one of the best loved and most influential ballerinas then dancing.

She displayed a dignity of technique that reflected her illustrious schooling, and an authentic glamour that be-

longed only to the rarest theatre artists. These qualities were evident whether she was dancing traditional classics (in *Coppelia* she was a Swanilda ideal in style, wit and charm), or in the modern works made for her by Balanchine (including *Night Shadow* and *Dances Concertantes*) or in ballets by Massine (*Gaîté Parisienne* was another of her greatest triumphs).

With her long-time partner Frederic Franklin, Danilova seemed to a large public to be the incarnation of the excitement expected of the Ballet Russe and of a great ballerina. They made a memorable return to London, dancing at Covent Garden in 1949, and Danilova was also to dance with undiminished lustre during two seasons with Festival Ballet. When she finally retired from the ballet stage, after a performance of *Raymonda* in Japan in 1957, she did not at first desert the theatre, but appeared on Broadway in the musical comedy *Oh, Captain*, and produced some opera ballets for the Metropolitan Opera House.

Thereafter she was invited by Balanchine to start work at the School of American Ballet, where she was soon to become a valued member of the faculty. With Balanchine she also staged *Coppelia* for New York City Ballet, and continued teaching until nearly the end of her life. An indelible memory for visitors to the school was of the still elegant Danilova, skirts revealing her impeccable legs, passing on to students the secrets of her art and warming them with the undimmed magic of her personality. In her life as in her art, she remained a woman of rare beauty, elegance and generosity of spirit.

Alexandra Danilova was married twice: to Giuseppe Massera and then to the dancer Kasimir Kokitch. There were no children.



Danilova dancing as a guest artist with London Festival Ballet (with Michael Maule)

PETER BLOS

Peter Blos, child psychologist, died in New Hampshire on June 12 aged 93. He was born on February 2, 1904.

KNOWN to his peers as "Mr Adolescence", Peter Blos was considered the founding father of adolescent analytic theory. His groundbreaking research spanned two continents and six decades, and his ideas about growing up made a great impression in the field of child psychology.

His book *On Adolescence* (1962) details the teenage struggle between the need to break free of one's parents and the strong desire to remain dependent. He considered this process of individuation to be critical to the development of a healthy psyche, and any failure to be a strong predictor of adult personality disorders. The book remains a basic text in universities.

Peter Blos was born in Karlsruhe, Germany, and studied education at the University of Heidelberg. After receiving a PhD in biology from the University of Vienna, he planned on becoming a science teacher. But a call from his friend Anna Freud — the daughter of the psychoanalyst Sigmund, and herself a practising analyst — was to steer him into studying the complexities of the human mind.

In 1927 Dorothy Tiffany Burlingham, the heir to the American Tiffany fortune, had moved to Vienna, with her children for analysis with Anna Freud. Freud contacted Blos with a proposal to set up a school for the children and he, in turn, summoned a childhood friend, Erik Homburger, to assist him in the task. Homburger, later known as Erik Erikson, himself went on to an outstanding career in human psychology.

Freud proposed that the school be run on psychoanalytic principles. It was watching Tiffany Burlingham's

children undergo the rite of passage to adolescence that persuaded Blos to abandon science for psychology.

He enrolled at a training institute in Vienna, but in 1933 the rise of the Nazi Party prompted him to move to the United States, where he taught in New Orleans before moving to New York for further analytic training.

In his own work with patients, he had a sympathetic, gentle manner. His informal, sometimes humorous, approach enabled him to communicate with, and to guide, very troubled adolescents.

In his second book, *The Adolescent Passage* (1979), Blos expanded his earlier account of the separation process. He argued that the first individuation occurs at the end of the second year of life, when the child experiences the distinction between self and non-self. He posited that a second and more complex stage of individuation occurs in adolescence, leading to a sense of identity.

Blos was also deeply interested in the tendency of pre-adolescent girls to become besotted with horses and riding. Analysing dreams of hundreds of girls, he postulated that the horse — representing a powerful, thrusting phallus, as well as an opportunity for a girl to lavish affection — represents her identification with her father.

As founder of the Child and Adolescent Training Program at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, Blos trained successive generations of child and adolescent psychologists.

In his later years, Blos, who published widely, advanced a third radical theory: that boys have to work through their attachments to their fathers to separate from them, a reworking of the Oedipal conflict.

He leaves his widow Betsy, a son and a daughter.

CARL DOLMETSCH

Carl Dolmetsch, CBE, musician, died on July 11 aged 85. He was born in France, on August 23, 1911.

IN THE summer of 1917, Arnold Dolmetsch, the father of early music and pioneer of modern recorder playing, noted in his diary: "Concert London. Grand succès. Baba abandonne mon sac à main contenant le recorder et mes outils et à Waterloo en face de la plateforme No 5, Désespoir".

The bag contained a rare 18th-century Bressan recorder. Dolmetsch had, however, taken some measurements of the instrument and, after more than a year of experimenting, he succeeded in reproducing the tone and intonation he was after, and made the first modern recorder to Baroque specifications.

This was the modern Dolmetsch recorder born and the fame of Baba — Arnold Dolmetsch's young son Carl — assured. Yet Carl's achieve-

ments and reputation were to extend far beyond this childhood notoriety. He became the first virtuoso recorder player of modern times, and after his father's death in 1940, succeeded him as artistic director of the Haslemere Festival.

Carl Frederick Dolmetsch was the second son of Arnold Dolmetsch, himself a colourful character who survived three marriages and a bankruptcy. Arnold had been a drummer-boy in the Franco-Prussian War before training

as a piano-tuner. His chance discovery of some music for viols in the library of the Royal College of Music, inspired him to a lifetime's research into early music and the instruments on which it was played — work which helped to lay the foundations for the historical performance movement that thrives today.

Carl's mother, Mabel Johnson, was his father's third wife and a former pupil. Carl was born in France shortly after the family fled the en-

croaching American recession of 1910. However, with the onset of war in 1914 the family retreated to the bohemian atmosphere of Hampstead, where Carl was educated privately and — at the age of four — began lessons on the recorder and viol with his father.

Carl Dolmetsch subsequently took violin lessons with Carl Flesch and Antonio Brosa, but at the age of 14 he was ordered by his father to restrict himself to early instruments and the recorder. With the threat of Zeppelin raids on London in 1917 Dolmetsch père acquired a property known as Jesses at Haslemere, Surrey, which in time became something of a mecca for the early music world.

After the First World War, Dolmetsch recorders became popular the world over, and were manufactured in large numbers by Arnold Dolmetsch Ltd. They were championed not only by members of the family who formed the Dolmetsch Ensemble, but by many others, including Miles Tomalin, father of the journalist Nicholas and a brilliant recorder player.

In 1925 Arnold Dolmetsch founded the Haslemere Festival, and from the outset the BBC took an interest: Carl's broadcasting debut came at the age of 14. Despite a flourishing solo concert career and his taking over of recorder research and production from Arnold after 1926, Carl remained firmly under his father's influence.

Covering the Haslemere Festival in 1937, *The Daily Telegraph* noted that Carl excelled on the recorder, and a few months later the Society of Recorder Players was founded, with Carl as musical director, a position he held until his death. During the early 1940s the family firm was involved in supporting the war effort, including the

production of early plastics. Once hostilities were over, Carl drew on that experience to produce the plastic Dolmetsch recorder, used by millions of schoolchildren ever since.

He went on to enjoy an active musical career, touring extensively, particularly in America (where he had first performed in 1935), Colombia and across Europe. He lectured, wrote papers and edited music, as well as running the Haslemere Festival for more than 50 years. He was appointed CBE in 1954. In the 1980s, his collection of historic musical instruments was sold, and many are now in London's Horniman Museum.

In later life Dolmetsch was at the centre of a debate about the pitch of the BBC's *Greenwich Time Signal*, when he objected to the lowering of the

hourly pips by a semi-tone. After a radio interview on the subject, the Swiss cultural attaché called to ask if he was of Swiss origin because of his accent. He was not, but his family had been, and French always remained the domestic language among senior members of the family.

Aside from his numerous recordings, publications and arrangements — particularly of 16th and 17th-century music — Dolmetsch was a champion of contemporary music for his instrument, commissioning more than fifty new works from composers such as Lennox Berkeley, Nicholas Maw and Jean Françaix.

Yet — and especially in later years — he was increasingly criticised within the recorder world for failing to move with the times and see beyond the

bounds of his family's achievements. In a sense the Dolmetsch family became victims of their own success. As the search for greater authenticity in the performance of early music gathered momentum in the 1960s, their inspiring and pioneering work in the field came increasingly to seem amateur and old-fashioned.

Carl Dolmetsch was a lifelong vegetarian, a keen ornithologist and a lover of natural history. His first marriage, to Mary Ferguson, produced two sons and twin daughters, but was dissolved. Tragically, their youngest son, Richard, the most musically gifted, committed suicide at the age of 21 after a nervous illness. The other children and his second wife, Greta, all survive him.



Carl Dolmetsch with his daughters and his granddaughter

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APPROVAL OF PRINCIPLE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

PARIS, JULY 14
The greater part of the replies to M. Briand's questionnaire on the proposals for a federal European union, sent to the European Powers on May 17, have now been received by the Quai d'Orsay. In his original memorandum, M. Briand asked that the replies should reach him by July 15. The British reply, however, is not likely to be ready for a day or two. I understand that the British Government, in concert with one or two other States, would have preferred to delay it until the autumn meeting of the League of Nations, but in compliance with M. Briand's wish, a reply of a general character is being sent. It deals with principles rather than detail. Great Britain, being already a member of a federation of nations, is in a peculiar position with regard to Europe.

The German reply has not yet been received, but it is expected that it will be handed to M. Briand by the German Ambassador almost immediately. The following are among the countries from which replies have already been received: Austria, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia,

ON THIS DAY

July 15, 1930

All through his long career in politics, the French statesman Aristide Briand (1863-1932), who had been Prime Minister and Foreign Minister many times, had been prominent in moves to promote peace and international understanding in Europe; now, boldly, he put forward proposals for a federal European union.

Italy, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, Portugal, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Poland.

The replies of some of these have already been published... They show that there is a body of opinion completely agreed not only as to the necessity for further federation, but as to the general lines on which it should be sought. From the various documents there emerges an almost general conviction that in a federal European union the sovereignty of each State must be respected, that there must be absolute equality between States, and that

participation in the union must be inclusive, complete, and permanent. The replies for the most part view the project as a proposal for a system of co-operation. On the negative side there is the objection that the greater States must not control the lesser ones, and that the federation must on no account be directed, or appear to be directed, against any other State or group of States. Opinions differ a little as to the best method of organisation, though the accepted view seems to be that, while the federal union must not overlap the League of Nations, it must work in complete harmony with it. Most of the replies are against the creation of a new Secretariat, and are of the opinion that the system of rotation, as practised in the League Assembly, would not be suitable for a federal union. It is evidently thought that a federation in harmony with the League, and perhaps based on the principles of the Geneva Protocol, would find support, as being in the interests of peace.

The replies devote a great deal of consideration to the questions of precedence between political and economic federation. But the great mass of opinion seems to be on the side of M. Briand, to the effect that a loose political federation must come first and that, when it has been achieved, a much tighter economic federation could be tacked on to it.

Skills shortages push up costs as construction recovery strengthens

BY MARTIN BARROW

SKILLS shortages are driving up wages and costs in the building industry, which is enjoying a strong recovery after the prolonged recession. Bricklayers, plasterers and carpenters are in short supply as builders seek to expand their workforce to deal with a sharp increase in workloads.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, publishing its quarterly construction market survey today, says over 60 per cent of chartered surveyors have experienced difficulty in recruiting bricklayers and about 30 per cent have had difficulty finding plasterers and carpenters.

The shortages are, in part, a result of the dramatic recovery of the industry, which in the space of one year has been transformed from the most sluggish sector of the economy into the second strongest. The shortages will also influence talks over pay due to take place later this week

between employers and the industry's three main unions. Forthright negotiations aimed at averting strikes on prestigious building projects, including the Millennium Dome and Manchester Airport's new runway, are set to resume after an earlier breakdown. Richard Houghton, RICS construction spokesman, said: "Skills shortages, while good news for skilled workers, will inevitably lead to increased costs." The survey, covering the three months to June 30,

shows workloads up by 5.7 per cent on the previous quarter and nearly 14 per cent since the second quarter of 1996. The figures show the private commercial sector to be the motor behind the construction turnaround. Demand for retail and office development in the South East has brought workloads up to nearly 72 per cent of their December 1988 level from an April 1993 low of 42 per cent.

Surveyors are confident that measures announced in the Budget earlier this month will give a further lift to the construction sector. As well as a £1 billion boost to schools, there will be £200 million in released capital receipts for social housing this year and a further £700 million next year. Mr Houghton said these measures were expected to lead to the creation of an extra 15,000 new jobs.

Greencore takes control of Kears

GREENCORE GROUP, the sugar, flour and malt producer, has taken control of Kears, the baking group, for £25.2 million. The purchase will lift Greencore's stake in Kears from 49.99 per cent to 98.5 per cent. The remaining 1.5 per cent will gradually be acquired from Kears's executive management from 2001 on. Kears, which made a pre-tax profit last year of £5.93 million on turnover of £32.7 million, is the holding company for the Starbake, Rathbones, Robertsons and Coolmore group of bakeries. Together they hold about 10 per cent of the UK bread market, making about five million loaves and ten million rolls a week.

The deal will be funded through the issue of £10 million of fixed rate 5 1/2 per cent loan notes. A further £10 million will come from the issue of 3.4 million Greencore ordinary shares. The rest will be paid in cash. Greencore's original investment in Kears of 20 per cent was made in 1990. It was increased to 30 per cent in 1991 and nearly 50 per cent in 1995.

Standard Life hits snag after Budget change to dividend tax

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

STANDARD LIFE, one of the UK's biggest life insurers, is not quoting transfer values for the occupational pension funds it runs after changes to dividend tax relief in the Budget. The mutual warned customers yesterday that applications to withdraw money from any of the 400 final salary schemes it runs on behalf of corporations should expect delays in receiving a quotation.

Pension providers are required by law to give a quotation within three months. Standard Life said yesterday it had stopped all quotations until actuaries had been able to calculate how much funds were worth. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, removed dividend tax credit for pension funds in the Budget. This means corporations offering pensions based on employees' final salaries will have to pay extra contributions out of their surpluses to ensure the payouts do not fall short.

Andrew Black, marketing manager at Standard Life, said: "We decided to put quotations on hold while we calculated the implications of the Budget. This could take a couple of months. No insurance company has yet had enough time to work out how the removal of the dividend tax credit will affect the value of the fund or future dividend payouts."

Meanwhile, insurance companies are bracing themselves for criticism when the Office of Fair Trading publishes its investigation into personal pensions today. The OFT report is expected to say that many personal pensions offer poor value and that people who surrender policies early are badly hit by early upfront charges.

The investigation, launched last autumn, compared pension provision in the UK with that in eight other countries, and is expected to suggest that personal pensions should be made more portable. It also focused on whether the way pensions are structured is detrimental to women and is believed to have concluded that tracker funds offered better value than many fund managers.

The report is published only days after the Government began a crackdown on companies that gave hundreds of thousands of people bad pensions advice in the 1980s.



Peter Wood sees Moxel as an important addition in the American Mid-West

Ellis & Everard buys US company for £13m

BY PAUL DURMAN

ELLIS & EVERARD, the chemicals distribution group, is continuing the expansion of its American business with the £13.1 million acquisition of Moxel, a distributor based in St Louis, Missouri. The Moxel deal follows the recent purchases of G M Gannon in New England and Taylor Salt in Virginia, which together have sales of about \$45 million (£26.6 million). Moxel is larger, with \$102 million of sales last year and pre-tax profits of \$2.2 million (£1.3 million).

Mutuals offer better deal

BORROWERS with banks that used to be building societies on average pay higher interest rates than those who have mortgages with societies that do not plan to convert, according to Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine. Which? said converters charge borrowers an average 6.75 per cent - 0.31 points higher than the mutuals' average of 6.44 per cent. Which? also said converters pay savers 0.39 points less interest than societies. The average for converters was 4.41 per cent; the average for mutuals was 4.8 per cent.

Arcon to float division

ARCON, the Irish company that recently started exporting zinc concentrate from its Galmoy mine in Co. Kilkenny, is to hive off its oil and gas interests to a new company, Providence Resources, to be listed on Dublin's Exploration Securities Market. Tony O'Reilly Jnr, Arcon's chief executive, said the move addressed the reluctance of investors to commit funds to a company that has oil and gas interests and extensive mining operations. He believes the combination has dragged down Arcon's share price.

New chief for Ascot

ASCOT HOLDINGS, the diversified industrial group formerly known as Control Securities, has appointed a chief executive to work alongside Howard Dyer, the hard-driving chairman. John Grant, former group finance director of LucasVarity, takes up his post with immediate effect. He has close links with the motor industry, working for Ford Motor Company from 1967 to 1992, and becoming deputy chairman of Jaguar Cars in 1990. He is a non-executive director of the National Grid Group.

Trafficmaster agreement

TRAFFICMASTER, the maker of traffic jam warning systems for motorists, yesterday signed a three-year agreement worth £15 million to provide live traffic information services to a leading mobile phone company. The company was not identified, but is thought to be Cellnet. Cellnet may give the Trafficmaster receivers away free, with each mobile phone sold. Trafficmaster also said its network will be extended to cover 95 per cent of trunk roads by 1998.

Toyota lawsuit in US

TOYOTA MOTOR has filed another lawsuit to prevent Florida billionaire Wayne Huizenga's Republic Industries, from acquiring more of its dealerships. Toyota filed the complaint in Florida seeking to block Republic from buying Lexus of Tampa Bay, and an affiliated Lexus dealership, of Clearwater, Florida, both owned by Gulf Management. Toyota alleges that Republic failed to comply with the company's established franchise requirements and policies.

Russian bank venture

SBC WARBURG and Brunswick Investments Ltd have agreed to create a new investment banking joint venture in Russia. The new joint venture, to be known as Brunswick Warburg, will be owned 50 per cent by SBC Warburg and 50 per cent by BIL together with management. Brunswick Warburg will comprise Brunswick Brokerage, the securities broking subsidiary of BIL, together with SBC Warburg's existing Russian corporate finance business.

New lines lift Cavaghan

CAVAGHAN & GRAY, the food company, made a profit of £5.4 million (£1.74 loss) in the year to March 31, despite the continuing BSE crisis. The company said it is continuing to develop a significant number of fish and vegetable based products to offset the depressed sales of minced beef. Earnings per share were 5.42p, compared with a loss of 3.89p. It will pay an unchanged final dividend of 2.7p to give a full-year payout of 3.7p, down from 4.2p.

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Woolwich to bill for lost shares

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE flotation of the Woolwich encountered fresh controversy yesterday as the former building society revealed it would be charging shareholders for share certificates that have apparently gone astray. The Woolwich flotation has already been marred by administrative and computer blunders that have resulted in the delay of share allocation packs as well as the non-arrival of share certificates.

The Times has received many calls from a portion of the 700,000 or so Woolwich borrowers and savers who opted to receive certificates. Many are still waiting, despite assurances from the Woolwich that all certificates went out on July 4. One reader, who is still waiting, was told that he would be charged £11.75 for certificates. Woolwich claims that it will only charge shareholders for replacements. The Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax, the other newly floated societies, will also charge savers and borrowers for certificates that fail to find their way to their rightful owners. However, at £17.62 both these banks levy a considerably higher charge than the Woolwich.

DBS confirms inquiry by PIA

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

SHARES in DBS, the independent financial advisers network, fell 80p to £10.65 yesterday as the company confirmed that the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the pensions industry watchdog, had started disciplinary action against it over pensions mis-selling. The PIA would not comment, but a fine as

high as £500,000 is believed to have been considered by its disciplinary committee. The warning is an embarrassment for Ken Davy, the company's chairman, who is a non-executive director of the PIA. Mr Davy is on holiday and was not available for comment.



Davy: embarrassment

David Stewart, finance director, said: "We were aware of the PIA's review and its concerns. They have passed on a detailed list of observations to us. We now have the opportunity to make representations back to the PIA." The likely scale of the fine reflects the size of the Huddersfield company and the new regulatory and political climate under Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary. So far she has concentrated on the role of the 24 largest pension companies in the pensions mis-selling scandal which occurred between 1988 to 1994.

BA union drops protest plan

BY JON ASHWORTH

UNION LEADERS in dispute with British Airways were planning to video shareholders arriving at today's annual meeting in London - in protest at the alleged filming of BA staff during last week's industrial action. The Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) considered disrupting proceedings at today's meeting, which comes as BA struggles to return services to normal. The plans were dropped, but some disruption by individual BA employees - many of whom are shareholders - cannot be ruled out. A TGWU spokesman said: "We can't stop individual employees from airing their views."

Shareholders are likely express concern at the mounting financial toll to BA, which has seen its shares plummeted by the industrial unrest. Analysts put the cost of last week's action at £15 million to £20 million a day, while the ongoing cost of lost revenues caused by passengers switching to other airlines has yet to be seen. Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of BA, will seek to reassure shareholders about the longer-term implications for the carrier.

Sir Colin may comment on baggage problems at Heathrow, which have fuelled a sharp increase in complaints in the past 12 months. BA has admitted that overstretched resources at Heathrow resulted in baggage delays and flight cancellations well in advance of the current industrial dispute, raising fears about the impact on services of future cost cutting. The BA management, led by Bob Ayling, chief executive, is seeking to find £1 billion in annual cost savings by the year 2000.

Flying start, page 29

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Less nightmarish on Elm Street



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Rosalind Wright takes no credit for the apparent good performance of the Serious Fraud Office last year. Although her predecessor as director, George Staple, presided over such embarrassments as the George Walker and Kevin Maxwell acquittals, his final 12 months saw the SFO scoring 12 convictions out of 14 cases brought to trial, including such crowd-pleasing victories as Abbas Gokal, Richard Feld and Mr Walker's sidekick Donald Anderson. But good news is a rare commodity over at Elm Street. And the effusive Mrs Wright is using the SFO's most positive looking annual review for many years as a lever to expand her power base.

"Roskill" she says "has never been implemented". And she's right. Although Lord Roskill recommended 12 years ago that there should be a unified fraud prosecution body, these days the SFO, Crown Prosecution Service, Department of Trade and Industry, Inland Revenue, and Customs and Excise all trip over each other.

Mrs Wright has come from the Securities and Futures Authority, which is now being folded into a unified super-Securities and Investment Board, covering the whole of financial regulation. Seeing one overly cumbersome investor protection structure sim-

plified inspires her. Maybe the Revenue and Customs might hold on to their powers, but Mrs Wright does think the CPS and DTI should let her take charge of their fraud prosecutions.

This makes sense, but only in the context of a much wider reform of how all forms of fraud are prosecuted. Mrs Wright yesterday called for a greater use of civil penalties — such as fines, confiscation of assets and banning orders — and also pressed for the ending of jury trials in complex frauds. But she still wants the SFO to keep both its investigative and prosecuting role. This means the SFO would investigate complex frauds of more than £1 million; decide whether to try all frauds however large; decide whether directors should be disqualified; and negotiate plea bargains where fraudsters might agree to pay compensation packages to avoid prosecution. It would also take over any criminal investigations arising from the work of the super-SIB.

This gives even more power to a body that does not have a particularly good track record. More

sensibly, the SFO should become a super prosecutor, working closely with the police fraud squads, DTI inspectors, super-SIB and even the Revenue and Customs. In complex cases it can lead legal and accounting advice, but would not actually investigate itself. This would reduce duplication and costs and might put a few more bad boys behind bars.

Pension funds start growing

Should you believe City fund managers? A large plurality among managers of £800 billion of fund money polled by Merrill Lynch reckons UK equities are a short-term sell. Institutional investors abroad agree. Yet someone has bought enough London shares over the week since the survey to push the

FTSE-100 index to a new high. Sceptics will note that UK institutions have been consistent bears of Wall Street for more than two years, as New York share indices climbed inexorably higher. The average UK pension fund now has only 4.3 per cent of assets in the world's top economy. Even the rising pound has not rescued this strategy.

Domestic fund managers were even bigger sellers of UK shares through most of 1996. Yet prices gained about 13 per cent.

This time, there are better reasons to turn off. The survey was taken just after the Budget, when the Chancellor axed dividend credits for pension funds. Apart from making equities a less attractive portfolio choice in times of low inflation, that was likely to drive funds into gilt-edged as the cheapest way to shore up actuarial solvency. Gilt-

edged yields have fallen so far that even the most prejudiced fund manager has also been forced to wonder why the average fund has only 3.2 per cent of its assets in higher-yielding prime UK property.

Shares are becoming absolutely as well as relatively less attractive. The Chancellor's gift of lower corporation tax is no match for the impact of sterling on export profits and foreign earnings. Aside from lower dividend returns, earnings per share are now expected to grow by a modest 6.8 per cent next year, a point less than before the Budget.

If you do have faith in fund managers, expect only a short-term correction to the FTSE 100 index. If this happens, it would be unlikely to take the index below 4200, where it dithered in Spring. Although managers have run cash holdings down

below 5 per cent, a tidy plurality still plans to invest more. In a typical bear market, investors choose cash rather than just shuffling asset preferences. That time has, it seems, not yet arrived. As base rates head for 7 per cent, it may come soon.

A Thorn in the side of splitting

Why didn't anybody spot that Thorn was so bad before the demerger from EMI? Yesterday's profits warning — when Thorn chairman Sir Colin Southgate proved himself the master of understatement by saying it was a "challenging" year — brings the grand total of shareholder value destroyed in the 11 months since the Thorn EMI divorce to more than £2 billion. This makes this an even more unsuccessful demerger than Hanson. The only hope for those clinging onto the two share certificates is for someone like Seagram to be tempted into bidding for EMI. This would also be good news for Sir Colin, who also chairs EMI,

and two other directors who have contracts that give them three years' money if they are kicked out after a takeover. Their payout would top £8 million.

The Thorn and EMI story shows the danger of demergers. If you have an underperforming business, exposing it to the cold eyed glare of an uncaring market is not the way to deal with it. The City does not like surprises, and will savage the shares of demerged businesses once bad news seeps out. John Hoerner might consider this as he splits the outperforming Debenhams from the underperforming rump of Burtons. The City was marking down the shares of the entire group because it was worried about the high street multiples. If Hoerner does not deliver, those shares will take a nosedive.

Save Diane Abbott

NOT only will the Treasury Select Committee be more boring without Diane Abbott, but it may also be less effective. When Ms Abbott put her mind to it she could be an effective operator. Eddie George, for one, won't be sorry to see her go. Ms Abbott's probing during the Barings hearing exposed the Bank of England's shortcomings, paving the way for Gordon Brown's decision to move banking regulation to the new super-SIB.

Midnight deadline for Boeing agreement

By GEORGE SIVELL

BOEING, the aircraft manufacturer last night faced a midnight deadline to make serious concessions over its proposed merger with McDonnell Douglas as European Commission sources said they could block the huge deal.

Both sides said progress was made during weekend talks, but Brussels sources said it was not enough to overcome the Commission's concerns that Boeing would strengthen its dominant position in the market for planes with more than 100 seats.

Boeing proposed a change, that eased one of the Commission's main concerns, said one EU source who declined to give any details. The source added: "Some progress has been made on one of the issues" — altogether more progress needs to be made. They [Boeing] know the risk they take if they do not come up with proper remedies by midnight.

Although the Commission has until July 31 to rule on the deal, it must allow time to consult national antitrust experts. In practice, it must make a final decision at its weekly meeting on July 23.

Thorn price falls after warning

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Thorn, the rentals group, took another battering as it reported more bad news on trading and came under attack from its shareholders (See Commentary, this page).

Sir Colin Southgate, outgoing chairman, told the annual meeting that sales had fallen 8.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year, mainly because of the strong pound, which the company now expects to knock £11 million off full-year profits.

The shares fell from 177p to 158p. The number of contracts terminated with Radio Rentals has risen by 20 per cent compared with last year. Sir Colin blamed the increase in insurance premium tax introduced in April and the impact of building society windfalls, which has encouraged customers to buy rather than rent.

One small shareholder, noting that the value of his Thorn shares has fallen by more than half since Thorn demerged from EMI last August, said: "One gets the feeling that these things [demergers] are not done for the benefit of shareholders. They are done for the benefit of merchant banks."

Since demerger, the shares have been hit by litigation concerns in the US and disappointing trading. The company has

shut 90 Radio Rentals shops, sold its Rent-A-Centre business in Canada and announced that it is to withdraw from its loss-making domestic rental operations in France, the Benelux region and Finland.

Sir Colin, who is being replaced by Hugh Jenkins, Thorn's deputy chairman, said he had every confidence in the board, adding: "We are all disappointed by the attitude the market has taken to Thorn." He also defended the company's strategy.

"I believe we are doing everything right, but who can predict the future," he said, pointing to the last Government's surprise decision to increase insurance premium tax on electrical warranties.

Another shareholder questioned whether Thorn was now just a holding company, waiting for somebody to take over the business. Sir Colin rejected this, saying: "I always believe in ownership and I don't believe in setting it up [the company] for somebody else to come along and buy it."

Sir Colin said trading conditions remained competitive in the US and the revenue value of the US rental base at the end of June was 7 per cent down on a year ago.



The write stuff: Peter Davey, left, and Philip Birt, finance director, saw profits climb sharply at Partners Holdings

Profits leap for Partners

PARTNERS HOLDINGS, the stationary retailer which floated on the London Stock Exchange in April, reported a sharp rise in pre-tax profits from £1.2 million to £2 million for the year to March 31.

The company, whose chief executive is Peter Davey, has opened eight stores since its flotation and now has a total of 88. It plans to have 100 by the end of the current year and 180 by the year 2000. Earnings per share were 5.6p (2.5p). The company will not be paying a final dividend.

Hire firms to consolidate

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE number of businesses in the rental hire market will drop by 50 per cent in a furious consolidation process over the next five years, according to Ashted, the market leader.

Peter Lewis, chairman, said that of 6,000 companies hiring building equipment and other machinery only 3,000 will survive. He said: "We expect the market to change its shape more in the next five years than it has in the last 30." The main reason for the consolidation in

the highly fragmented market is a change in the customer base. Small independent players dominate the market but they cannot satisfy the increasingly sophisticated rental needs of their customers.

Ashted has emerged as the market leader with a market share of 14 per cent by offering a more varied product range to newly privatised businesses in the rail and utility sector. Mr Lewis said. Most competitors are too small to cater for

the needs of these businesses. Only 35 UK rental hire companies have annual sales exceeding £5 million.

Yesterday Ashted reported pre-tax profits of £28.3 million in the year to April 30, up from £16.8 million (£96 million). Earnings were 16p a share (13p). A final dividend of 2.93p (2.42p), due on October 8, makes a total of 3.65p (3.07p).

Tempus, page 28

Directors to leave Capital restaurants

By DOMINIC WALSH

CAPITAL RADIO, which last week lost Richard Eyre, its managing director, to ITN, is in part company with Peter Webber and Stephen Goss, respectively managing director and finance director of its My Kinda Town restaurants subsidiary.

When Capital bought MKT for a hefty £51 million last November, it said the company's two executive directors would be retaining their jobs. However, their positions became fragile after the appointment in May of Russell Scott, from Harry Ramsden's, the fish and chip shop operator, as chief executive officer.

Capital has attracted criticism for its diversification into restaurants. However, an industry source said: "My Kinda Town was underperforming and Russell has some clear ideas on what he wants to do with it. It's no surprise these two are going."

MKT operates such brands as Henry J Bean's, Salsal, and the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory. It also operates the Capital Radio Café in London's Leicester Square.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Blue chip power leads FTSE to another record

THE equity market ended on another high note yesterday with a handful of powerful blue chips making all the running.

The FTSE 100 index closed at its best with a rise of 57.9 to a closing high of 4,857.4. ICI accounted for about five points of this rise when its price leapt 69.5p to a peak 880p — adding £500 million to its price tag — as the City reflected on the proposed sale of its industrial chemicals business to DuPont for £2 billion.

This follows hot on the heels of the sale of its 62 per cent stake in ICI Australia for £1 billion and the purchase of Unilever's specialty chemicals business.

By the close of business almost 16 million ICI shares had been traded, with SBC Warburg, the broker, reckoned to have set a target price for the shares of 950p to £10. Last night in New York there was heavy trading of the shares in the form of American Depositary Receipts.

The action in ICI also focused attention on Zeneca, up 78.5p at a new peak of £21.58.5p, which was demerged from ICI in 1993. Brokers said the disposal by ICI had given them the chance to revalue the business and could prove favourable for Zeneca, a perennial takeover target.

In the past Zeneca has been linked with the likes of Roche, which unveils figures later today, along with SmithKline Beecham, 43p better at £12.47. A total of 1.25 million Zeneca shares were traded and 4.13 million SmithKline. The low levels of turnover suggested stock shortages.

Glaxo Wellcome jumped 59.5p to £13.76.5p and HSBC 39p to £20.00.5p. BT put on 16p to 456.5p as one broker reckoned: "Traders are short of BT and long of MCI. They have been struggling to unwind their positions."

Overall, the market was underpinned by Wall Street's ability to extend its pre-week-end lead and a subdued set of factory gate prices for June. Heavy buying of the financial future also bolstered sentiment. The FTSE 250 index finished 5.6 up at 4,423.9. Total turnover reached 737 million shares.

A renewed wave of takeover speculation sent shares of the insurance companies racing away. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, remains a big bull



Peter Lewis and Alan Anderson, of Ashtead, 10p higher

of the sector and forecasts growth in UK takeover activity after recent consolidation in Germany and Switzerland.

Takeover favourite Commercial Union led the way with a jump of 21.5p to 701p. David Hudson at Laing expects the insurers to outperform the rest of the market because respectable results will be posted soon. Gains were also seen in Guardian

Royal Exchange, 2p to 276p. General Atlantic, 2.5p to 905p, and Royal Sun Alliance, 4p to 464.5p.

A profits warning left Thorn 18.5p down at 158.5p. The group has reported that turnover during the first quarter dropped 8.5 per cent because of the effects of a strong pound.

DBS Management fell 67.5p to £10.77.5p after con-

firms its financial management arm was being investigated by the regulatory authorities.

Dixons Group advanced 14p to 560p after UBS, the broker, raised its profits forecast in response to last week's impressive sales update while reiterating its "buy" stance on the shares. It has lifted its numbers for the current year by £15 million to £240 million. Last year total sales reached £2.4 billion.

Full-year figures from Ashtead, the builder, lived up to City expectations and the shares celebrated with a jump of 10p at 302.5p. Peter Lewis, chairman, said the market was undergoing heavy rationalisation that would see more changes in the next five years than experienced in the previous 30.

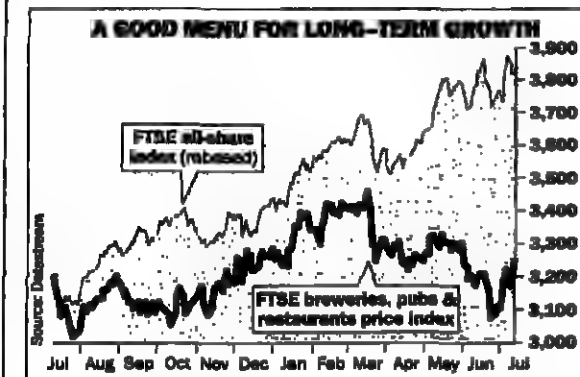
There was a positive response to the news that shareholders at HIT Entertainment had approved its rights issue and that the group planned to move from AIM to a full listing. The price ended 27.5p dearer at 332.5p. Rival SCI Entertainment rose 15p to 182.5p as Carmageddon, its computer game, raced up the popularity stakes a week after going on sale.

A newcomer with an old name, Cammell Laird, made a positive start to trading after a placing at 100p. The shares opened at 112.5p and touched a peak of 115p before settling at 114.5p, a premium of 14.5p. **GILT-EDGED:** Worries about continuing upward pressure on interest rates continued to overshadow the London bond market, which underperformed other European centres. This was in spite of a benign set of European producer price numbers for June and a Merrill Lynch-Gallup survey concluding that fund managers were diverting spare funds in bond markets.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 1/16 lower at £114.32 as the number of contracts completed slowed to 63,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 1/32 off at £109.17, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000

NEW YORK: A powerful rally among shares of large technology companies helped to provide upward momentum to a broader market concentrating on second-quarter earnings reports. By mid-day the Dow Jones industrial average was 20.21 points ahead at 7,942.03.



Investors have begun gorging themselves on the growing number of publicly quoted restaurant chains.

According to Beeson Gregory, the broker, the recovery in consumer spending has been good news for the eateries.

It's a big market, which Beeson estimates will grow between 1996 and 2001 from £21 billion to a staggering £32 billion. Restaurants will benefit from better availability of sites, affordable rents and low interest rates.

Beeson's Ian Berry recommends Groupe Chez Ge-

rard, up 6.5p at 261p. It would also "add" City Centre Restaurants, unchanged at 126p, which should start to benefit from significant investment and the London economy, along with Oriental Restaurants, 15p better at 290.5p, where plans are afoot to open up to three restaurants a year.

AIM-listed ASK Central, steady at 233.5p, is seen as dear compared with the other restaurant operators, while Pizza Express has enjoyed a good earnings track record, but will suffer from increased competition.

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All Ordinaries 2675.00 (+26.10)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4126.19 (+43.22)

Singapore:
Straits Times 1954.00 (+12.54)

Brussels:
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Paris:
CAC 40 1194.00 (+3.88)

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SIX 1194.00 (+3.88)

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FTSE 100 4857.4 (+57.9)
FTSE 250 4423.9 (+5.6)
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FTSE 100 Index 4857.4 (+57.9)
FTSE 250 Index 4423.9 (+5.6)
FTSE 350 Index 2325.9 (+2.1)
FTSE All-Share Index 4857.4 (+57.9)

SEAG Volume 737.30
US\$ 1.0683 (+0.0002)
German Mark 1.6229 (+0.0025)
Exchange Index 105.5 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (p.m.)
ECU 1.5266
RPI 157.5 Jun (2.94) Jan 1987=100
RPI 156.7 Jun (2.78) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AIT 150p ...
Ashtead 302.5p ...
Ammell Laird 114.5p ...
European Mng Fin 126p ...
Galen Holdings 190p ...
Grosmont Hldgs 3p ...
Grosmont Hldgs Wrs 1p ...
Primestar 135p ...
Ramboult Merit 110p ...
Royalbair Group 208p ...
SBS Group 120p ...
SGS Group 15p ...
Woolwich 300p ...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Benchmark n/p (200) 16p ...
Dragon Oil n/p (2) 4p ...
Mackie Int n/p (20) 7p ...
MWS Group n/p (175) 4p ...

MAJOR CHANGES

RSES:
Pochins 120p (+20p)
Bar & Wallace 316p (+20p)
David Smith 182p (+15p)
British Smith 167p (+15p)
Coltech 257p (+20p)
Woolsey 456p (+20p)
Blackes Leisure 441p (+17p)
Georhouse Group 350p (+13p)
BT 456p (+16p)
Hardy Oil 456p (+16p)
Calm Energy 409p (+18p)
Bodycote 632p (+27p)
Ashtead 302p (+10p)
Ned 730p (+19p)
Deane Group 560p (+14p)

FALLS:
Mervier-Swain 222p (-10p)
Servomac 380p (-15p)
Rois-Royce 210p (-8p)
Cale Inns 192p (-7p)
Lambert 220p (-5p)
Spartan 452p (-14p)
Aus New Zealand 433p (-12p)
Christies Int 287p (-4p)
AB Food 537p (-9p)
Scot & New 720p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Chemistry is right at ICI

BY THE end of this year, ICI will be almost unrecognisable. The old commodity chemicals company is turning itself inside out in a determined effort to create a group of reliable growth businesses less exposed to cycles. Scarcely two months on from acquiring £3 billion of sales in specialty chemicals from Unilever, it is shedding £1.5 billion of industrial chemical businesses to DuPont at good prices. It has just completed the sale of its £1 billion stake in ICI Australia and has sold £120 million of property. In the context of a group with turnover of £10.5 billion last year, Charles Miller Smith, ICI's mid-mannered chief executive, is entitled to talk of transformation and the creation of a new ICI.

The decision to sell polyester polymers, dioxane and other industrial chemicals cannot be faulted, barring the time it has taken ICI to

come to a decision. ICI could not win in these markets, where it found itself fighting competitors in developing countries who were prepared to plough billions of dollars into operations that chased volume at the expense of margin.

ICI hopes that specialty chemicals — those used in food, fragrances and detergents — will prove to yield better returns. The company yesterday suggested that it should be able to improve on the 6-7 per cent annual growth achieved under Unilever. It has already identified bigger savings and synergies than originally budgeted. A useful benefit will be reduced currency exposure as ICI sheds commodity chemicals businesses that sold products made in sterling but priced in marks. More disposals will follow and the rating should continue to improve.

Ashtead

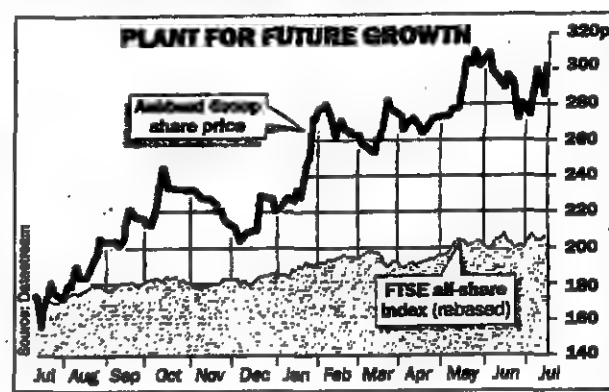
ASHTHEAD is so far ahead of its competitors that one is tempted to wonder whether they are in the same business. Plant hire sounds dull, renting equipment to construction companies emerging from a long recession. However, Ashtead has been growing at a tremendous pace and the company boasts a total compound annual return to shareholders of 50 per cent over the past five years.

In a sense, Ashtead has built its business on the back of the misfortunes of the construction industry. Wracked by recession and desperate to plug holes in their cashflow, builders have failed to replace expensive plant, preferring to hire equipment when the workload requires it. At the same time, Ashtead has been pro-

moting the outsourcing philosophy elsewhere. Five years ago Ashtead decided the builders were too unreliable a customer base on which to build its future. A marketing department was created and the construction sector now accounts for a quarter of the revenue base.

In the future the profits motor will come increasingly

from the United States, where Ashtead is one of the top ten companies with only 1 per cent of the market. Plant hire is a young industry in the US, charging rates double the UK average, creating a huge opportunity for growth. Ashtead should lift earnings 15 per cent again this year, more than justifying a premium rating.



Guinness

IN TERMS of style, Bernard Arnault is more like a foppish member of the *ancien regime* than a *sans culotte* storming the Bastille. Nevertheless, he is doing a good job of pulling down the castle built by Guinness and GrandMet who have now agreed to examine his proposals.

Whatever he proposes, they will find it difficult to keep him out. There should not, in principle, be any problem in bringing Moët-Hennessy into the fold — the distribution arrangements are already in place. M. Arnault's desire to see the food and catering operations removed is really a question of timing rather than strategy. Pilsbury will be a useful profit earner as the huge cost of putting the drinks businesses together is written off the profit and loss account. Long term there is no logic to holding on to Pilsbury as long as the drinks merger delivers its promise.

As ever, the issue must be price. Arnault will not be content with a small stake in this operation and the question is what will Moët-Hennessy bring to the party, other than a few more famous brands.

Cost savings will be minimal as the Moët-Hennessy management is not huge and there will be no production synergies (Heaven forbid any Anglo-Saxon interference). Bringing Arnault to the table will involve Guinness and GrandMet in giving up more than they gain. The two companies' shares have had a good run; now is the time to sell.

Construction

THIS building sector ought to be on a roll. Confidence is higher than ever, house prices are rising, consumer spending is up and the Chancellor's Budget promised a dollop of extra cash to mend school roofs and build more council houses.

Yet, construction shares have slipped since the Budget and relative to the market, they have been underperforming since January. While it is true that most sectors except banks and oil companies have been ignored recently, one might expect better from a sector where average earnings are due to rise by 30 per cent.

Part of the problem is the anticipated rise in base rates, always a bad weather sign for builders and an oddity at a time of cyclical recovery. Also, the sector tends to outperform at the end of recession with at least half of the profits growth during an upturn expected to justify the early price movement. However, that is not enough reason to ignore the sector. Even if mortgage rates hit 9 per cent, that should not kill the housing recovery and it could lead to a steady market, a blessing for this industry.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

COMMODITIES

LIFTS			
Jul	101.60	COCOA	1119.11/1117
Sep	102.90	COCOA	1128.11/1126
Nov	104.20	COCOA	1137.11/1135
Dec	105.50	COCOA	1146.11/1144
Jan	106.80	COCOA	1155.11/1153
Feb	108.10	COCOA	1164.11/1162
Mar	109.40	COCOA	1173.11/1171
Apr	110.70	COCOA	1182.11/1180
May	112.00	COCOA	1191.11/1189
Jun	113.30	COCOA	1200.11/1198
Jul	114.60	COCOA	1209.11/1207

ROBUSTA COFFEE (lb)			
Jul	125.12	Robusta	670.50/670
Sep	126.42	Robusta	679.50/679
Nov	127.72	Robusta	688.50/688
Dec	129.02	Robusta	697.50/697
Jan	130.32	Robusta	706.50/706
Feb	131.62	Robusta	715.50/715
Mar	132.92	Robusta	724.50/724
Apr	134.22	Robusta	733.50/733
May	135.52	Robusta	742.50/742
Jun	136.82	Robusta	751.50/751
Jul	138.12	Robusta	760.50/760

WHITE SUGAR (lb)			
Jul	10.10	White Sugar	312.50/312
Sep	10.20	White Sugar	313.50/313
Nov	10.30	White Sugar	314.50/314
Dec	10.40	White Sugar	315.50/315
Jan	10.50	White Sugar	316.50/316
Feb	10.60	White Sugar	317.50/317
Mar	10.70	White Sugar	318.50/318
Apr	10.80	White Sugar	319.50/319
May	10.90	White Sugar	320.50/320
Jun	11.00	White Sugar	321.50/321
Jul	11.10	White Sugar	322.50/322

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION			
Jul	10.10	Meat & Livestock	312.50/312
Sep	10.20	Meat & Livestock	313.50/313
Nov	10.30	Meat & Livestock	314.50/314
Dec	10.40	Meat & Livestock	315.50/315
Jan	10.50	Meat & Livestock	316.50/316
Feb	10.60	Meat & Livestock	317.50/317
Mar	10.70	Meat & Livestock	318.50/318
Apr	10.80	Meat & Livestock	319.50/319
May	10.90	Meat & Livestock	320.50/320
Jun	11.00	Meat & Livestock	321.50/321
Jul	11.10	Meat & Livestock	322.50/322

LIFE OPTIONS			
Jul	10.10	Life Options	312.50/312
Sep	10.20	Life Options	313.50/313
Nov	10.30	Life Options	314.50/314
Dec	10.40	Life Options	315.50/315
Jan	10.50	Life Options	316.50/316
Feb	10.60	Life Options	317.50/317
Mar	10.70	Life Options	318.50/318
Apr	10.80	Life Options	319.50/319
May	10.90	Life Options	320.50/320
Jun	11.00	Life Options	321.50/321
Jul	11.10	Life Options	322.50/322

LIFE INDEX (1990=100)			
Jul	112.70	Life Index	4750.00/4750
Sep	113.70	Life Index	4800.00/4800
Nov	114.70	Life Index	4850.00/4850
Dec	115.70	Life Index	4900.00/4900
Jan	116.70	Life Index	4950.00/4950
Feb	117.70	Life Index	5000.00/5000
Mar	118.70	Life Index	5050.00/5050
Apr	119.70	Life Index	5100.00/5100
May	120.70	Life Index	5150.00/5150
Jun	121.70	Life Index	5200.00/5200
Jul	122.70	Life Index	5250.00/5250

LIFE INDEX (1990=100)			
Jul	112.70	Life Index	4750.00/4750
Sep	113.70	Life Index	4800.00/4800
Nov	114.70	Life Index	4850.00/4850
Dec	115.70	Life Index	4900.00/4900
Jan	116.70	Life Index	4950.00/4950
Feb	117.70	Life Index	5000.00/5000
Mar	118.70	Life Index	5050.00/5050
Apr	119.70	Life Index	5100.00/5100
May	120.70	Life Index	5150.00/5150
Jun	121.70	Life Index	5200.00/5200
Jul	122.70	Life Index	5250.00/5250

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Jul	112.70	Life Index	4750.00/4750
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Nov	114.70	Life Index	4850.00/4850
Dec	115.70	Life Index	4900.00/4900
Jan	116.70	Life Index	4950.00/4950
Feb	117.70	Life Index	5000.00/5000
Mar	118.70	Life Index	5050.00/5050
Apr	119.70	Life Index	5100.00/5100
May	120.70	Life Index	5150.00/5150
Jun	121.70	Life Index	5200.00/5200
Jul	122.70	Life Index	5250.00/5250

LIFE INDEX (1990=100)			
Jul	112.70	Life Index	4750.00/4750
Sep	113.70	Life Index	4800.00/4800
Nov	114.70	Life Index	4850.00/4850
Dec	115.70	Life Index	4900.00/4900
Jan	116.70	Life Index	4950.00/4950
Feb	117.70	Life Index	5000.00/5000
Mar	118.70	Life Index	5050.00/5050
Apr	119.70	Life Index	5100.00/51

Debonair crew get flying start over rivals

Jon Ashworth looks at the issues underpinning the staff dispute that has weighed so heavily on the board of BA



Mancassola: customer care

At British Airways, few things inspire a more extreme reaction than the expression "virtual airline". At Debonair, the Luton-based low fare operator, the term is openly embraced. For it means tight control of costs and lower fares — all the things that prove so elusive to former state-run monopolists such as BA, laden with their excess baggage.

This, at any rate, is what fund managers across Europe have been hearing in the last few days. Franco Mancassola, Debonair's chairman and chief executive, has called in on institutions from Frankfurt to Madrid, seeking support for an imminent listing on Easdaq, the pan-European screen-based exchange. Pricing and allocation will be announced this week. Debonair, which has been flying for just over a year, is seeking to raise £25 million, reducing debt and providing funds for expansion.

Mr Mancassola, who spent much of his career with Continental Airlines in America before founding an inter-island service in Hawaii — he

sold out at handsome profit — was inspired by the opening of Europe's skies, fully deregulated since April 1. Armed with start-up capital from private American investors, he set about creating a "clean sheet" airline, leasing BAe 146-200 aircraft, and packaging out costs.

Ground and baggage staff wear Debonair uniforms, but are employed by outside contractors. Maintenance is paid for by the flying hour, enabling Debonair to reduce its costs in a downturn — simply by reducing services. Mr Mancassola says: "We are a virtual airline, in the sense that all the fixed costs that a traditional airline has, we've eliminated."

Two incidents from his days in Hawaii shaped Mr Mancassola's thinking. One evening, he stopped by the airline's maintenance bay to find the mechanics sitting around

reading and playing cards — all on full pay. On another occasion, he found salaried check-in staff sitting around idly between flights. "It began to form in my mind that an airline should be a marketing organisation selling seats. Having shed the excess cost, you can pass it on to the consumer."

The "virtual" argument can be taken too far, though, and nothing should impair the enjoyment of passengers. Cabin crew and pilots are not part of the equation. Mr Mancassola says: "The airline has only one asset: the customer. You can't mortgage your only asset. Airlines are a service industry. The passenger is everything."

This is the theme underpinning the entire BA dispute. Relations between the management, led by Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive,

and many of the BA employees, from baggage handlers to cabin crew, have broken down in the general climate of distrust and misgiving. Staff are suspicious of BA's links with a charter airline called Flying Colours, and fear that the business of flying will be parcelled out to outside operators, bringing lower salaries and job insecurity. BA has denied seeking to turn itself into a "virtual airline", but has yet to clarify its intentions with respect to Flying Colours.

As for Debonair, virtuality is all very well, but small airlines have the odds stacked against them. Flying out of Luton — as opposed to London City Airport, for instance — is not a plus for travellers. There is also no shortage of competition. Debonair has six

aircraft serving seven destinations in Europe, competing with the likes of EasyJet, also based in Luton, and Air UK, which flies from Stansted. Virgin Express, based in Brussels, competes on inter-European routes.

The carrier made an operating loss of £15.7 million in the year to end-March on sales of £14.2 million, but hopes to break even this year. The all-important indicator of cost per mile — 8.3p at launch — is down to 7.3p, and heading for the target of 6.5p. Debonair carried 460,000 passengers in its first year of operation.

Mr Mancassola is outwardly confident — as one would expect of someone going cap-in-hand to the market. Within three to four years, he hopes to have 15 to 20 aircraft feeding regional business to Europe's national carriers, whom he thinks will be compelled to abandon routes of less than 1,000 miles on the grounds that they are not cost-efficient. A financial link with one of the carriers could follow — in the style of KLM, which last week took full control of Air UK.

BUSINESS LETTER

Building society posturing sickness

From Mr Trevor Kingston
Sir, As an unabashed "carpet-bagger" I am heartily sick of the hypocritical posturing of the building societies on this issue. The movement has long since relinquished any right to occupy the moral high ground and to talk of "fair rewards for loyal members".

If societies have truly been run "by the members for the members", one wonders how huge reserves have been built up in the first place. Clearly, the management has, through policy, charged borrowers too much interest and rewarded savers with too little over a long period of time. No doubt the directors' bonuses have been healthy because of this policy, but how have the ordinary members benefited?

If the interests of loyal, long-standing members are really the issue, why do societies offer cashbacks, discount rates and fixed-rate mortgage deals to new borrowers which are not available to "loyal" borrowers of many years' standing? Who exactly is subsidising these deals? The loyal members, of course.

Similarly, why have societies pursued a policy of inventing new accounts with special tiers of interest, then failed to notify existing members that they are losing out by leaving their savings in old accounts? Again, loyal members have been used to subsidise the rewards offered to floating investors.

The societies cannot have it both ways. During the 1980s they became marketing machines, dedicated exclusively to increasing reserves and profitability. Investors and borrowers alike were squeezed and "members" became units of profit on a balance sheet, and targets for unscrupulous financial services selling. The ruthless and cruel policies of aggressive mortgage selling, enforced indemnity policies and rapid repossession, employed during the 1980s and 1990s, ensured that the movement lost all public respect and sympathy. Building societies were seen for what they had become, banks in all but name.

Personally, I would love to see the existing board of directors of Nationwide Building Society defeated by the "conversion" candidates; not only because of the windfall payout which would come my way, but because true democracy would have had its day. Building society "paternalism" has been discredited by the abuses of the 1980s and 1990s; it is now time to give us our money and let us run! And if the new banks really do prove to be as uncompetitive as Nationwide suggests, we will all run back to a new breed of building societies, smaller, more honest and dedicated to the interests of their members, not to the naked avarice of their marketing teams.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR KINGSTON,
Kilpenn, Curlew Vale,
Guildford, Surrey.

Don't mention the euro as Germany prepares for E-Day to dawn in City

Oliver August on Frankfurt's efforts to wrest control of financial markets from London

For bankers, an affirmative answer to the question *Sprechen Sie Deutsch* could become vital to their careers. Speaking German may soon be essential for working in the City.

For years, the growing number of Germans to the City have been subjected to the time-honoured taunt of "don't mention the war". Their employers had either bought old British houses such as Kleinwort Benson or established new head offices in London. During induction weeks, the German bankers were told to humour the Brits and their hang-ups. The jibes were met with well-practised smiles and the peace was kept in City wine bars.

But the balance of power seems to be dipping the other way. The war that currently dominates wine bar talk is the war between Frankfurt and London as financial centres. And this time, the Germans could be on the winning side.

Frankfurt has ambitions to match London's position as the best place in Europe to make large amounts of money. Of course, this is not the first time they have said this. So far, the usual response from the British has been a belly laugh. No more. Now, it is British bankers who smile politely with a hint of embarrassment and try to recall a few German O-Level phrases. What has happened?

Frankfurt has assembled an impressive set of levers to propel itself towards pole position. And it has recruited the Paris exchanges as partners. For the first time in its history, the City is facing a serious threat.

Germany began its assault on London's market position with a total reform of the way the equity and futures markets operate. In 1994, insider dealing was made illegal to counter accusations that the German markets could not be trusted because of the lack of effective supervisory control. Reserve requirements imposed on all banks by the

Bundesbank were also gradually lifted to improve Frankfurt's attractiveness. And German companies were encouraged to break with tradition and seek listings rather than be owned privately by large institutions.

The Frankfurt stock index, the Dax, has doubled in little more than two years, closing at an all-time high yesterday. Last year's flotation of Deutsche Telekom was Europe's biggest.

But getting the local trading environment right was never going to be enough to challenge London's position. Frankfurt's trump card is the single European currency, which is only about 350 working days away.

It is on the euro that Germany is pinning its hopes. What impact the single currency — and Britain's absence from it — could have on the flows of money is particularly obvious to businessmen operating and banking on both sides of the Channel. Bernd Fischer, the chief executive of BMW, which owns Rover, recently said: "If Britain should stay out for a long time at the beginning of the financial capital of Europe will be Frankfurt, not London."

European companies such as BMW or Unilever would be likely to see Frankfurt as the best place to see their shares listed after a re-denomination of the shares into euros. Not only would the need for currency conversions be greatly reduced but Frankfurt would also be the home of the European Central Bank, which will set euro interest rates.

Furthermore, if Britain stayed out of Emu, British-based banks run the risk of not being admitted fully to Target, the new pan-European payments system. The Bundesbank and the Bank of England have for months been locked in talks over the system.

Under the thin disguise of academic debate between central bankers, the two institu-



See no evil, hear no evil: Life does not favour Frankfurt's modern tendency, opting instead to reaffirm its commitment to open-outcry trading.

tions have been battling for their respective interests. Frankfurt is trying to keep non-Emu members out of Target by arguing that it needs to retain the fullest possible control. London has taken up the familiar theme of a multiple-speed Europe in which an independent British financial centre would have priority links with the Continent.

The ferocity with which the Target debate is being pursued in Frankfurt has surprised the Bank. The Bundesbank is a recent convert to Frankfurt's cause. Only now that it is about to lose power to the European Central Bank, has it shed its studied indifference.

London's strong point over the last decades had always been the unrivalled liquidity of its markets. Pension fund money, Arab money, a vast amount of it was available in London while continental exchanges suffered at times from a lack of buyers and sellers. Frankfurt has had to ac-

knowledge that it is unlikely to match London's liquidity overnight. At least on its own. The heads of the house and the futures market came up with a plan to combine their operations with the next biggest financial centre in Europe — Paris.

The French connection has now reached an advanced stage. The two stock exchanges will start trading on single joint computer screen from the middle of next year.

The futures exchanges are aiming to do the same but at the moment Paris still operates an open-outcry system. However, Jörg Franke, a board member of the Terminbörse in Frankfurt, said that a link-up was likely after an expected move to screen-trading in Paris.

Only last week, Life, the London futures exchange, reaffirmed its commitment to open-outcry trading as the most efficient system, guaranteeing the highest degree of liquidity.

Herr Franke retorted that screen-trading reduced market participants' cost by half. The argument over trading systems is really a metaphor for the different cultures of banking on respective sides of the Channel. London is staking its future on the traditional techniques that generated fortunes over decades, while Frankfurt is copying the more technically advanced methods of the highly successful American banks, which are now just as dominant in Frankfurt as they are in London.

In Frankfurt, the British low-tech option is considered as redundant as the House of Lords. German bankers see themselves winning in the race with London because they pay more attention to new methods that can boost profits. Ulrich Schröder, a policy analyst at Deutsche Bank, said: "Due to a new consciousness, Continental centres such as Paris and Frankfurt will improve their performance and close the gap to London."

The official City's reaction to

Frankfurt's ambition has been marked by complacency. When *The Times* first contacted the London Stock Exchange regarding the alliance between Frankfurt and London, the exchange knew nothing about it. Gavin Casey, the LSE chief executive, remarked that the Continental exchanges have tried to co-operate before and failed. He delighted in recalling that 35 per cent of top European companies are listed in London. But even Mr Casey had to admit that Emu is a threat.

The City's favourite statistic with regards to Frankfurt is a survey of the number of banks situated by the River Main. Some 7 per cent of Frankfurt's banks left the city last year. But the Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce said the closures were mainly by less prominent banks that had not been doing business in the city.

The large investment banks are all increasing staff levels in Germany at the moment. For British bankers, this is no time to discard old German text-

books and O-level notes. The arrival in massed ranks is expected in Frankfurt on E-Day, the day the euro becomes legal tender, most likely to be January 1, 1999.

Until such times, their German colleagues will tell each other in the wine bars of the City: "Don't mention the euro."

Mellon slice

JIM MELLON, chairman of Regent Pacific, will not be putting Hambros out of its misery. The fund manager has had a 3 per cent stake in the bank for a year now and has been tipped to make a hostile bid since last Friday's departure of three senior bankers. "There's certainly no plan at the moment," he says. His company is only half the size of Hambros by market capitalisation. "It would be very difficult for Regent to do that. But there's a greater consensus among shareholders that we've

ken to that the place does need a radical shake-up."

By a happy coincidence, the day after the Hambros departure was the first of what could become one of the key City events of the summer, at Mellon's new £15 million home in the UK, Morley Hall in Hertfordshire. His house-warming had a Russian theme — Regent is the biggest fund manager there — with the guests in fancy dress, Cossack dancing, and so on. There is talk of making it an annual affair. "I didn't invite anyone from Hambros — they probably had other things on their minds," he says.

● GERRY ACHER, head of audit and accounting at KPMG, was toasting his forthcoming vintage car journey from Beijing to Paris yesterday. He then set off in his 1932 Aston Martin for Felbstowe, where the beast was to be packed for the long journey east. Nigel Challis, KPMG director of compliance, will also be competing in his 1955 series 1 Land Rover. Acher will be filing reports during the 12,000 mile odyssey, which starts on September 6. Alas, the omens from the tough London to Felbstowe leg of the trip, are not good. "We got lost on the way to the docks," he chokes. "I'm sure there are



far fewer roads between Beijing and Paris than around Felbstowe."

Beyond our Ken

KENNETH JORDAN, the man behind the Knight Williams Investors Action Group, is not receiving much encouragement from the Securities and Investments Board for his plans to represent the smaller investor there once the board has been revamped into the new super-SIB. Sir Andrew Large, who is retiring as chairman, has called for such representation, and a number of voices, including my own, have suggested Jordan as the ideal candidate. But anyone who writes to the SIB to sug-

gest this, and there have already been a fair few, receive a very brief note back suggesting they redirect their energies towards the Chancellor and the Bank of England.

Flight of fancy

BRITISH AIRWAYS may or may not have won the war, but it is certainly losing the peace. A colleague had booked to fly to Munich with BA. He arranged to fly Lufthansa on the way out, as the cabin crew strike was then on. He suggested switching to the German airline for the journey back on Sunday too, as flights would still be in chaos. BA refused. So he spent three hours at the airport before the British carrier finally admitted defeat — and booked him on to Lufthansa.

● THERE are at least two more New World countries with the same potential for wine as Chile and Argentina, which now seem to provide every fourth bottle at the supermarket. So claims John Brackenbury, chairman of the Pubmaster chain, who is returning to his roots with a non-executive post at Western Wines, the shipper that supplies Tesco, Safeway and Asda. Brackenbury was a director of drinks group IDV, with responsibility for wine, before its purchase by Grand Metropolitan. Commercial confidentiality means he is not revealing where the wine we will all be drinking in ten years time

is made. My bets are Uruguay and Brazil, with a side bet on Canada.

Biter bit

A BRITISH tourist goes into a shop in Budapest and is much taken by an expensive jacket. The jacket is carefully wrapped up for the journey home. Tourist, back in London, opens the package — and finds the jacket has been swapped by the shop for a cheap alternative. An everyday scam — except that the tourist was Rosalind Wright, director of our own Serious Fraud Office.

MARTIN WALLER



Brackenbury beer to wine



"Coffee? Tea? Valium?"

TRUST ME

goodwill n. 1 document in which you are left something of value 2 what you should extend to others when this occurs 3 the good reputation of a business and its contacts with its customers.

partnership n. 1 seagoing accommodation for lawyers, accountants etc. 2 unregistered business where two or more people share the risks and profits equally.

joint venture n. 1 trip inspired by illegal substance (orig. *sixties*) 2 annual orthopaedic holiday 3 business planned by two or more persons, companies etc.

bond n. 1 attach fingers together with superglue 2 agent with liking for dry martinis (*shaken, not stirred*) 3 contract document promising to repay money.

flotation n. 1 launching of a commercial enterprise on the Stock Exchange 2 life belt or similar device required if enterprise sinks.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 15 1997



BBA GROUP PLC Assistant Corporate Solicitor

1-2 years' ppe City

BBA Group PLC is a leading international group of engineering and transportation businesses. It is listed on the London Stock Exchange and has a market capitalisation nearing £1.5 billion. In 1996, turnover was in excess of £1 billion and profits before tax were over £142 million. The Group's global growth continues organically and through acquisition and joint venture.

Due to this expansion we seek to recruit an assistant corporate solicitor to join our close knit legal team of three based at our head office in the City. The environment is fast moving and has an international focus. The work will be broad, ranging from commercial contracts and employment to competition law, EC law, IP and managing litigation with external counsel. It will also involve some corporate transactional work.

You will have 1-2 years' broad ranging company/commercial experience gained with a London or major regional law firm or in-house. Exceptional newly qualified lawyers will be considered. Most important is a flexible commercial approach and a real desire to be part of a high profile listed international company. You must be a self-starter, highly motivated and able to act on your own initiative with confidence.

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LAW

Dollars chase lawyers

Josephine Carr investigates talk of an American recruiting drive

There has never been a better time to be a young financial lawyer in the City of London. The market is alive with rumours of American firms conducting dawn raids on City firms to make offers their lawyers cannot refuse. And the talk has some basis: while City firms pay newly qualified lawyers, on average, £30,000, US firms such as White & Case offer £45,000.

For the right lawyer, says Gareth Quarry of Quarry Douglas, a recruitment consultancy, the sums are higher. "We are," he says, "placing newly qualified with major Wall Street firms for £65,000." Jonathan Brenner of the recruitment consultancy Zarak Macrae Brenner says: "Qualified lawyers can get twice what they would get in a UK firm." ZMB recently placed a three-year qualified lawyer in a US firm on an £80,000 salary, against a UK average of about £50,000.

The salaries war has been sparked by a boom in international financial services and a shortage of lawyers. US and UK firms both want to build complementary US and English law practices. Clifford Chance recently scooped a top US banking partner from a leading New York firm but lost Andrew Wilkinson, a partner in the New York office of the New York firm Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft. Linklaters & Paines now has 21 American lawyers in Manhattan.

The merchant banks also are headhunting lawyers for salaries that dwarf even the US firms into the shade. Mr Brenner says: "They are looking for exactly the same type of lawyers. For every project finance lawyer on our books, we have 70 vacancies."

So far, City firms have refused to match the American salaries. Frank Varela of the Longbridge Consultancy says the prevailing view is that firms can bear the current



Solicitors in This Life: a BBC2 series. Some City lawyers may soon be in the money

Level of qualification	London - City	US law firms in London
Newly qualified	£30,000-32,000	£37,500-40,000
1 year's post-qualification exp.	£34,000-36,000	£42,500-45,000
2 years' exp.	£37,000-42,000	£46,250-52,500
3 years' exp.	£45,000-51,000	£56,250-64,000
4 years' exp.	£52,000-55,000	£65,000-90,000
5 years' exp.	£57,000-67,000	£71,250-95,000
6 years' exp.	£67,000-87,000	£84,000-100,000
8 years' exp.	£75,000-90,000	£95,000+

Figures can vary depending on certain factors - for example, an individual's performance and area of expertise
Source: Longbridge Consultancy

level of loss because not enough top lawyers have left to be a cause of concern. Charles Allen-Jones, senior partner at Linklaters, says: "If you count the number of English lawyers in the US firms, it is tiny."

But the number of American law firms with London offices is growing. The New York firm Weil Gotsal & Manges launched its London office in January 1996. Now it has almost 40 English lawyers and has moved from its offices of 10,000 sq ft to premises with 40,000 sq ft. The Chicago firm Sidley & Austin's English law practice set up in 1995 and

now has 33 English lawyers. No firm wants to pay more than it must. But the first crack in the City firms' resolve came in the recent pay round. Herbert Smith sent a memo to all its lawyers asking them to find out what other City firms were paying. Stephen Barnard, the managing partner, admits that this is "unusual", although the firm always does research before its pay round. Mindful of inflation, London firms agreed average rises of more than 10 per cent.

The counter-attack on US pay levels is similar elsewhere. Mr Allen-Jones says: "We have explained to our people that we

cannot match the US firms. The only way to do so would be to change the whole economics of the profession. And we would have to adopt US working and billing practices."

The US firms are known for working their lawyers hard. They are usually expected to bill a minimum of 2,100 to 2,300 hours a year, against an English firm average of 1,500. The English firms talk of "sweatshops", and question whether lawyers in a US firm have time to spend the money. John Edwards, a former partner at Clifford Chance and now managing partner of Sidley & Austin's London of-

ice, dismissed the argument as "fantasy", claiming that lawyers in an English firm work just as hard. And City firms, when pushed, admit that their lawyers work as hard. Geoffrey Howe, managing partner at Clifford Chance, says much of its work is in areas where US and UK firms compete. "Our lawyers are doing the same job," he says, "and we would expect to see the same hours recorded." So are lower pay levels reasonable?

The City firms argue that US firms are less likely to promote English lawyers to partnership. And they point to the English "lockstep" pay system, in which partners' pay rises with seniority. Merit pay, or "eat what you kill", has replaced lockstep in the US. But the Americans say that partnership is hard to attain in any firm. And they add, US firms are making English lawyers full partners.

So far, arguments against the US law firms do carry weight with potential recruits. Colin Fergus of Fergus Legal Search & Consulting, an American recruitment firm, says it is easier to persuade a US lawyer to join an English firm. They may balk at the lower pay, but Mr Fergus claims that lawyers "prefer the English lockstep to a system where every achievement will be weighed and may be found wanting for reasons outside their control."

American firms do not want to see salaries rise out of control. They bend over backwards to say how like the English firms they are and they talk down the issue of pay. So who is hyping the salaries? One observer comments: "It is in the interests of the recruitment firms to do this - they get paid by commission. The US firms are happy to let them run ads offering £60,000 for young lawyers or £700,000 for partners at the moment, as they seek to build the critical mass. But few, if any, take on lawyers at those rates."

Clients must hope that view prevails. The only way firms can finance their battle for a market share is from fees. If salaries go through the roof - so will bills.

The author is editor, European Counsel Magazine.

Solicitors promote poetic justice

The solicitors Mishcon de Reya are searching for a "poet in residence". The advertisement in Poetry News prosaically announces that the successful applicant will receive a fee of £10,000 for spending half a day a week at the firm's London offices for a year.

This initiative is not designed to encourage litigation partners to send sonnets before action, to draft each paragraph of affidavits in the 17-syllable form of a haiku, to compose instructions to counsel entirely in limericks, or to advise clients in verse along the lines "I'm no ignoramus, we'll ask for mandamus".

The object is to encourage contacts between poetry and the world of work. Mishcon believes that the presence of a poet will "stimulate and develop its staff". More lyrically, Mishcon has explained that the idea of a poet in residence is focused on its mission statement that "if we do nothing else, we must clarify, elucidate, illuminate".

This is not the first time lawyers have applied for a poetic licence. In 1991, during a trial for a public order offence at Oxford Crown Court, David Osborne, defence counsel, summed up in six minutes of verse.

After the rousing finale to Mr Osborne's submissions: "You will deliberate, talk, and discuss. Not guilty is the verdict. And so say all of us the jury acquitted his client. Poetic justice, indeed." In 1950, the Divisional Court heard an appeal by a defendant convicted of being drunk in charge of a "carriage" on the highway. He had been pushing his bicycle along a road in Ilfracombe, Devon. His counsel argued that a bicycle was not a carriage, citing the lyrics to the song, Daisy Bell: "It won't be a stylish marriage. I can't afford a carriage. But you'll look sweet upon the seat, Of a bicycle made for two."

and concluding by lamenting that: "Flora loves though we three. We must uphold the court's decree." In 1973, the United States District Court in Pennsylvania gave a three-page judgment (plus headnote and footnotes) entirely in verse. Its quality can be appreciated from the opening stanza:

The motion now before us, Has stirred up a terrible fuss and the finale. Finding that service of process is bona fide, The motion to dismiss is hereby denied.

In 1985, when a judge of the United States District Court delayed giving judgment for a lengthy period, impatient counsel hired a messenger to deliver a singing telegram, sung to the tune of Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow, but substituting the words "Let us know, let us know, let us know".

As these examples demonstrate, legal verse is more likely to be pathetic than poetic. Business sponsorship of the arts deserves support, so long as lawyers do not deceive themselves into thinking that the presence of a poet in the next room, and a well-thumbed copy of the New Oxford Book of English Verse on their shelves, equip them with the qualities of Auden or Ira Gershwin.

Mishcon is taking a substantial risk that partners' meetings will be delayed while they compare each other to a summer's day, limitation periods will not be observed while outdoor clerks muse that they have world enough and time, and assistant solicitors watching their cases being lost in court will reflect (without taking remedial steps) that counsel is not waving but drowning.

But a poet in residence has the potential to achieve more than a resident comedian or physiotherapist, and to enable Mishcon to gain a competitive edge over rival solicitors whose mission statement is confined to advising clients on points of law. Shakespeare understood that the legal profession may have to work hard to select words which make clients, and their conduct, more attractive. As Bassanio observes in The Merchant of Venice: "In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt, But being season'd with a gracious voice, Obscures the show of evil?"

Mishcon hopes that a good poet will encourage the staff to think about the use of language, the tool of a lawyer's trade. As so often in the law, what matters is not merely what you do, but the intention with which you act. Or, as lawyers are reciting, you need the mens rea to work at Mishcon de Reya.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

Cherie sees the Bar go online

CHERIE BOOTH, QC, comes down to earth with a bump this week after her hectic round of international engagements, touring the globe with Tony Blair, and last week winning a case before the European Court of Justice.

On Thursday, in her capacity as "chairman" of the Bar telecom working party, she will officially launch the new Bar Telecom Network, a national telecommunications system for barristers allowing for data, phone and video links.

Demonstrations are promised, says the Bar Council, which will "vividly show the Bar Council in action".

Persecuted

RELATIONS between senior management at the Crown Prosecution Service and many of its prosecutors may be strained, but are they about to get significantly worse? One prosecutor recently received a letter addressed to the Crown Prosecution Service.

High-flyer

AS WIDELY predicted, Lord Justice Saville has been promoted to the House of Lords to succeed Lord Mustill.

The judge, 61, the very model of a modern unstuffy judge, has had a rapid rise: a High Court judge in 1985 and a Court of Appeal judge only

three years ago. He has made his mark in various fields, first in the commercial court, then in the promotion of information technology and also in drafting singlehandedly - the acclaimed Arbitration Act. He has another string to his bow: he spent the weekend enjoying his hobby of flying.

Neate move

FRANCIS NEATE, Slaughter and May's oldest and longest-serving partner, is leaving the firm to join Schroders as group legal director.

As at other City firms, an increasing number of the more "mature" Slaughter and May partners appears to be moving on to jobs in banks and other business areas.

Mr Neate says: "There does seem to be a bit of a trend, but you get presented with opportunities and this was one that was too good to miss. I also wanted to have proper weekends, and in a City law firm that is hard to organise."

Brummie boom BUSINESS is booming - at least in Britain's second city. Eversheds in Birmingham and the Midlands has announced new regional results showing a £6 million increase in fee income turnover and a new record level of fee income of £33 million.

Top OU job

GARY SLAPPER, the principal lecturer in law at Staffordshire University and a regular Times columnist, has been appointed director of the new Open University law programme. In February 1998 the OU will offer its first degree course in law in collaboration with the College of Law. Dr Slapper says: "The new degree will open opportunity for high-quality legal study to thousands of people who cannot or do not tread the standard path from school to full-time university study."

Critics have raised the problem of older students gaining training places. But Dr Slapper says that fears of



Dr Slapper: heading course

ageism among law firms are not borne out by the figures. "Law Society data," he explains, "show that 25 per cent of people admitted as solicitors last year were in the 30 to 39 age bracket. This can be seen as good news by many prospective law students."

The average age of business students at the OU is 35. Mature graduates are likely to have a savoir-faire and self-confidence not always found in the younger, more callow graduates.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

SHIPPING/INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAWYER

DUBAI

The international practice of the law firm Clifford Chance, with its 23 offices worldwide, has grown and diversified rapidly in recent years. Clifford Chance is the largest international firm operating in the Middle East and continues to build its regional practice. We now require an experienced shipping/international trade lawyer to continue the expansion of our shipping practice in the Gulf.

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You will need at least 4 years' post qualification experience in shipping and international trade. A commercial and proactive approach to problem solving and a talent for business development and team management is essential.

If you are interested please write with your career details to:

Teresa King
International Personnel Manager

200 Aldersgate Street
London EC1A 4JJ

Tel: 0171 600 1000
Fax: 0171 956 0175

For further detail contact our website: <http://www.cliffordchance.com>

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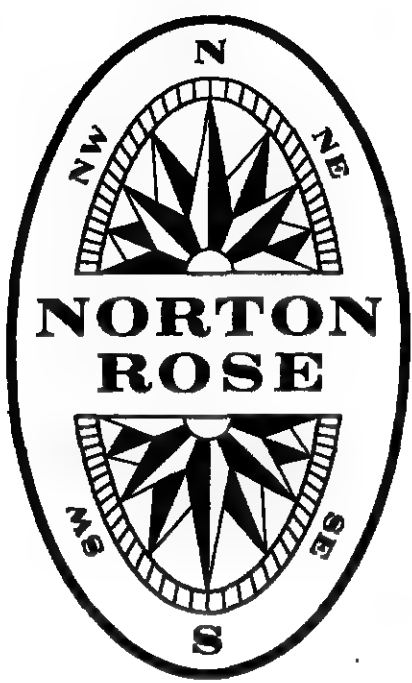
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ESPECIALLY THE MYTH THAT WE TAX LAWYERS HAVE NO LIFE OUTSIDE OUR WORK!

BUT FIRST OF ALL, IS NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT OK FOR OUR NEXT MEETING?

CORPORATE INSURANCE PARTNER

Norton Rose, a leading City of London and international law firm, committed to building on its success, is creating Partner opportunities in its core practice areas. The firm has identified Corporate Insurance as an area of strategic growth and is looking to appoint an additional Partner from a leading international practice or specialist insurance firm.



The successful Partner will:

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To apply, please write with your CV and current salary details to our consultants, Claire Vane or Charles Dodd, at Zarak Human Resources, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Fax: 0171 523 3703. E-mail: claire@zhrr.co.uk. Closing date for applications is 30th July 1997.

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BANKING AND FINANCE

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This is one of the fastest moving banks in the City. They are looking for corporate, banking or securitisation lawyers to join their principal finance team. The work is of the very highest calibre and the chance to join this triple A rated bank cannot be missed if you have 4-5 years' ppe in the above areas. Ref: TB38890

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Exceptional management opportunity with an investment banking subsidiary of one of the world's largest banks. Work includes a broad range of capital markets products as well as advising management on general commercial issues. Genuine career prospects and an excellent remuneration package. Ref: TB35609

BANKING

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JUNIOR CORP. FIN. EXECS.

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Corporate finance executives are in hot demand! If you have 0-2 years' ppe and have a strong background in banking/corporate work then the opportunity to join the blue-chip merchant bank is a must. Demonstrate your business skills as well as your legal skills. Ref: TB24479

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Opportunity to move away from paper shuffling existence of the City lawyer and be involved in the make-up, co-ordination and running of the highest profile deals in the City. Ideally, you will have between 4-7 years' ppe with strong domestic M&A experience. Remuneration outstrips any UK law firm. Job satisfaction and career path are excellent. Ref: TB39489



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If you would like to find out more about any specific vacancy or wish merely to have an informal, confidential, career discussion then please call either Michelle McDermott or Seamus Hour on 0171-405 6062 (0171-792 0475 evenings/weekends) or alternatively write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4PH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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Our client is one of the premier securities houses in the world. It is at the forefront of capital markets development and enjoys a reputation for innovation and exceptional expertise.

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This is a first time appointment at a level which is extremely high profile. You will therefore either be an established partner from a blue-chip City law firm or hold a senior legal position in another first rate finance house.

Your experience will be in the international capital markets. As important will be your determination to develop your existing skills and utilise them managing all legal aspects of the firm's activities.

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Competent solicitor, with the ability to work completely unsupervised, required to work within high profile media department of top City firm. Urgent instruction. Very interesting work including trusts and personal tax. Ref: 40033

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Bristol office of finance company seeks an experienced lawyer with asset finance/leasing experience from either practice or industry. Contract is for 3-6 months and is to start immediately. Ref: 41476

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Experienced capital markets lawyer sought by this leading finance house. As well as documenting capital markets transactions, candidates will be negotiating ISDA Master Agreements and PSA/ISMA Repurchase Agreements. Contract will be for 2-3 months to start immediately. Ref: 40881

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Opportunity for 2-4 years' qualified to join a leading accountancy firm for a 6-12 month contract. Previous experience of a wide range of commercial issues including company and partnership law essential. Workload will include development of standard documentation. Ref: 41406



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Solicitor with good City background and experience in either pensions or employment sought by this leading international firm in their London office. Workload will be predominantly corporate support. Contract could be part-time. Ref: 41529

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High profile company based in the West of London seeks a junior solicitor/barrister with at least 2 years' experience in marketing and litigation for a 1 year contract. Candidates will be expected to conduct routine litigation as well as being heavily involved with marketing issues. Ref: 41462

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Top 100 blue chip company seeks a lawyer with previous non fee-earning experience to join them on a part-time or full-time basis, initially for 2-3 months. Position will be completely unsupervised and therefore relevant experience is essential. Must be computer literate. To start immediately. Ref: 40524

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Expanding department of City firm seeks corporate solicitors with 1-4 years' ppe, for 6 month contract. Work is mainly transactional and candidates must be able to hit the ground running. Ref: 36230

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The successful applicant will be responsible for conducting complex criminal litigation on behalf of the Government at all levels of the Court system including The Cayman Islands Court of Appeal. Counsel will also be required to advise law enforcement agencies generally and to undertake extradition and mutual assistance matters.

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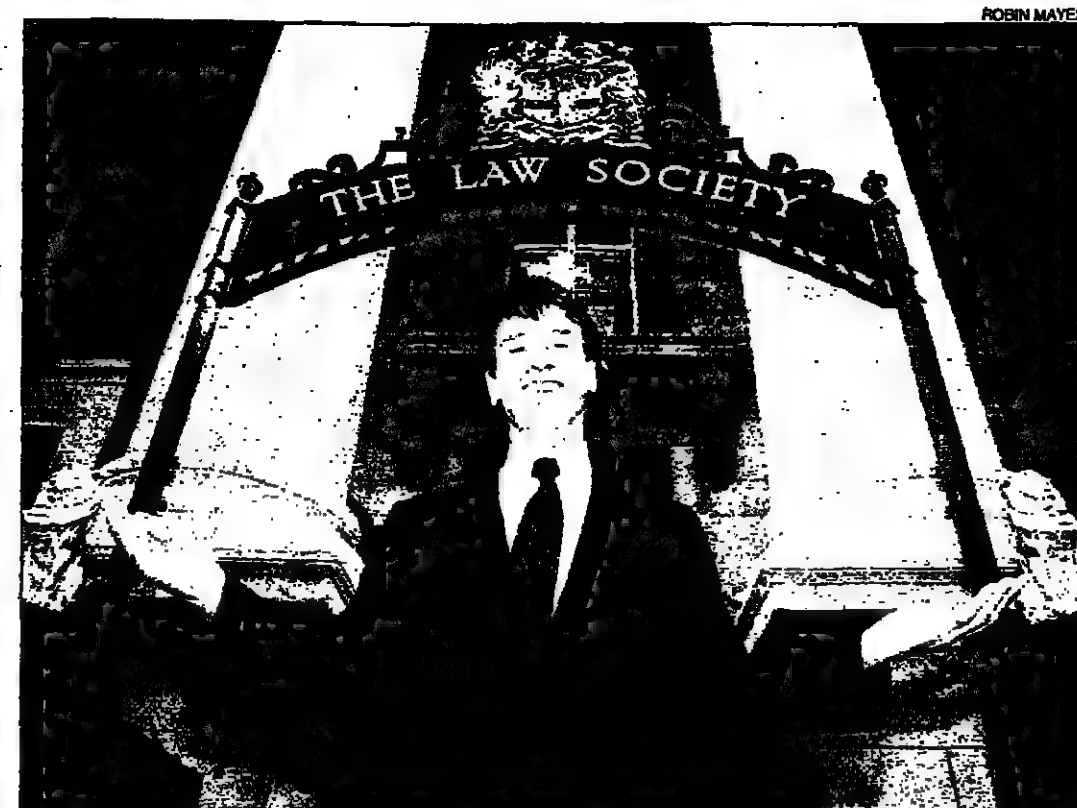
You may not realise it but, Tony Girling tells Frances Gibb, he has made a difference

Anonymous Man's quiet revolution

Solicitors will now know that Phillip Sycamore has been elected for Law Society President. But who does the new President succeed? A recent survey found that almost half the profession had no idea who their leader was. Nine months into his term of office, Tony Girling, who hands over the reins of office tomorrow, does not seem to mind. "I was not unhappy with that finding," he says. It compared no less favourably with the public's knowledge of Cabinet ministers.

Nonetheless, it has been a remarkably low-profile year for Mr Girling. He took over after a turbulent year of Mr Mears, marked by controversy, infighting and colourful headlines. Mr Girling, a stalwart of the Law Society council, was by contrast considered the acceptable face of the profession who could institute a period of calm and consolidation. His term of office was bound to seem tame and dull.

Mr Girling found an organisation in flux after the exodus of nearly all its senior officials and a recently arrived secretary-general (the society's chief executive). Morale was low. "All the key players were absent," he says, "and I knew my job was to ensure that the society was refreshed and reformed, to make it an effective body which could withstand the vagaries of democracy." In other words, a



Girling, retiring Law Society President: "My job was to ensure that the society was reformed"

machine that would run smoothly, helping the council in its priorities, whoever was elected to the driving seat as President.

He would have liked a little longer; the "clement" is not quite set in one or two areas. But fundamental changes have been achieved. A first task was to break down the "fiefdoms" that had grown up: at the time, a sign of a strong dynamic bureaucracy. But the balance tilted too far, weakening the 75-strong council. "We needed," he adds, "to ensure more cross-fertilisation between departments, more working together. There is no doubt now that the council is back in charge."

It means more work for council members. Mr Girling, preferring to be involved in all council business, has found it impossible to spend time at his own Kent practice. He has also created a strong policy committee — which is not dominated by departmental heads with their own agendas. It can keep a grip on policy and, with it, resources.

Mr Mears and other critics of the past year say little has changed, that the society is still an over-fat, costly bureaucracy. Mr Girling accepts that the "head count" at the society must be tackled. But the first step was to identify priorities: a list of 19 key policy areas has been drawn up and that will drive the society over the next year or so. No such list existed before. More fun-

ADR winning new friends

Edward Fennell on why clients and even litigators are coming round

A year after Lord Woolf published plans to streamline civil justice, the legal community is still waiting to hear which recommendations will be adopted. Last week's British Airways threat to take striking staff to court was a reminder that litigation is often still the preferred way of resolving disputes.

Not everyone has BA's deep pockets. And many lawyers believe that their clients are impatient for a less confrontational means of settling disagreements. So though the outcome of Woolf is uncertain, there is a view among many lawyers that psychologically a corner has been turned and that the various methods of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), rather than being a rarity, should become the norm.

that better meets their business needs.

Nigel Savage, the College of Law's chief executive, agrees that trainee solicitors have to be taught the basics of how to litigate in order to gain their professional qualifications. But he welcomes the demand that the new generation of lawyers must be better prepared for commercial reality, adding that students are gradually being made aware of the costs of litigation and of other possibilities. "We are," he says, "helping them to understand that once they are in practice, it is dispute resolution rather than going to court that matters to most clients." One possibility, Mr Savage says, is for the College of Law to start to offer a special diploma in dispute management that builds on lawyers' key skills. "Advocacy and negotiation as well as knowledge of the law are vital in the ADR context. We can build on those in developing ADR skills."



Plant training needed

One sign has come this month with the launch of S.J. Berwin's ADR unit. Now Everheds has set up a dispute management service. Antony Gold, the firm's head of litigation, insists this is not simply a "rebadging" of its traditional litigation service but represents a basic rethink of how to provide a way to solve disputes. At the heart of this, he says, is the development of a new methodology combined with an extensive training exercise. "We're adopting a holistic approach to business problems," he says. "It's an all-embracing system percolating throughout the firm."

Probably the most "heavy" traditional litigator is the firm Herbert Smith, yet even there ADR's merits have become appreciated. Again, training is what is starting to make ADR into a reality. Charles Plant, a partner, believes that distinct skills are necessary for techniques such as mediation. "Some people assume that experienced arbitrators will automatically make good mediators," he says. "But people have to be trained in the skills that these techniques require."

ADR now comes in many forms, from the "mini-trial" held under an adjudicator, through to mediation and conciliation. Choosing the right techniques for the case is part of the skill of successful dispute resolution.

John Bolton, a partner at Davies Arnold Cooper, was one of the five assessors who worked with Lord Woolf on his proposals. He is keen that the integrity and entirety of the Woolf proposals to be respected. If the proposals are cherry-picked, he says, "the danger is that the system will not hold together."

One problem Mr Gold has faced, however, is that most lawyers have been trained from their earliest days at law college to think in litigation terms. In many cases it is now a matter of unproving their prejudices and substitute something that is more client-friendly.

Mr Gold says: "Many clients are disenchanted with litigation. We must provide them with something

As an ADR expert, Mr Bolton finds the market for his services expanding. He also points out that ADR is potentially more profitable than litigation for solicitors because the costs of going to court squeezes clients' budgets so much.

Frances Gibb on a campaign in Scotland that is having echoes in England

Legal aid bill under fire

THE debate on curbing the legal aid bill has already taken off in Scotland with publication of the Scottish Legal Aid Board's list of 20 top legal aid earners. How much legal aid, the board asks, can Scotland afford? The board and the Law Society of Scotland have met Henry McLish, Scottish Home Affairs Minister, who says he will consult on any proposals.

The Law Society of Scotland, meanwhile, has wasted no time putting forward its own ideas to curb costs, which it favours over any public defender service. Legislation for

piloting such a service in Scotland is now on the statute book. But John Elliot, who is President of the Law Society of Scotland, believes that it would deprive clients of a choice of lawyer and could prove far more costly to run than the Government estimates. The society offers a package of proposed reforms, including controlled legal aid fees, more use of information technology, decriminalising some minor offences and making sheriffs managers over their own courts to maximise efficiency.

Mr Elliot, who also wants an overall review of all involved, including the profession, courts, police, Prison Service and the Procurator Fiscal Service, suggests a civil justice forum where those in the civil courts could discuss reforms and how best to target

civil legal aid to those in need. Mr Elliot also says that the figures on top earners from the Scottish board were gross, and did not represent the firms' true earnings.

● In an article (July 7) on the public defender system, a paragraph was wrongly attributed to Mr Elliot. It said: "He added that it was easier to see the advantages of such a system for civil cases because 'of the enormous importance [in criminal work] of the perceived independence of a defendant's lawyer.'" The words were those of Russell Wallman of the Law Society of England and Wales.

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Reference: AH/07/T.

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A number of top multi-national practices are actively recruiting US and UK qualified lawyers with between 1 and 10 years' relevant securities experience. Candidates with mainstream corporate backgrounds would also be considered. Excellent opportunity to work for global leaders - with the option of secondment abroad if preferred. (Ref.17788)

FINANCE - LONDON COMPANY TO £70,000
An unusual opportunity has arisen within a team of finance lawyers in a corporate organisation. A leading lawyer with 3-6 years' experience is sought to advise on a wide variety of commercial banking. Usual mix of work, very high profile transactions and the opportunity for a leading lawyer to broaden their experience outside pure finance. Very business orientated. (Ref.20030)

PROJECTS - PREMIUM
There are currently several lucrative vacancies in leading firms for project lawyers. A shortage of suitable candidates has resulted in a demand for lawyers as junior as 6 months' qualified with banking and/or finance experience who would like to re-enter the area. At the senior end, prospects are outstanding for individuals with proven technical ability and motivation. (Ref.17411)

IN-HOUSE MULTINATIONAL TO £60,000
This multi-national company has a reputation for being a company which offers its lawyers extremely well. A new role has been created for a 1-3 qualified lawyer who is presently in the corporate finance or banking department of a top 10 City firm. The work will be cross border acquisitions and financing, working in close contact with the business. (Ref.16346)

PROPERTY LITIGATION TO £45,000
Top 5 City firm with excellent property litigation profile requires assistance with up to 3 years' post-qualification experience, preferably with a property emphasis. Exceptional money available will be considered provided they have had some exposure to this specialism. Good team atmosphere and dynamic work ethic which encourages early responsibility and close client contact. (Ref.19173)

For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact Andrew Caulfield or Yvonne Phillips (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-533 3838 (01483-828110 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-533 3838 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 St. James Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-533 3839. E-mail: enquiry@zmb.co.uk

£125-175,000

MEDIA/MULTIMEDIA
Dynamic international firm which is one of the few to have a broad based media practice is engaged in high profile transactions in Europe, the USA and Asia. Succession planning is a number of key specialisations there is an opening for an established media lawyer with experience of derivatives and/or structured finance. This is a very large multi-national with a significant presence in London with a high profile financial products arm. Will work very closely with the business development team with minimal documentation and compliance work. (Ref.20073)

SECURITIES - MULTINATIONAL £100,000+
A new opportunity has arisen for a 5-8 year qualified UKAS finance lawyer with experience of derivatives and/or structured finance. This is a very large multi-national with a significant presence in London with a high profile financial products arm. Will work very closely with the business development team with minimal documentation and compliance work. (Ref.20073)

CONSTRUCTION TO £60,000+
Leading construction team requires additional lawyers with either a construction or non-construction law. Group has a strong industry focus and offers specialises advice to a wide variety of clients including power, engineering and energy companies. Banks, insurance companies and financial institutions. (Ref.20045)

PENSIONS TO £60,000
Pensions lawyers remain in some demand. Our client is a leading multi-national firm with a successful, but not dominant, corporate finance department. Additional pensions expertise is now required at the junior and ideally up to 4 years' experience. Excellent opportunity for partnership in the medium-term and all the benefits of working in a top City practice. (Ref.20071)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY £25-50,000
This is one of the rare City law firms with a strong industrial, corporate and finance law which takes the commercial property department seriously. It has successfully established a distinct commercial property team which operates alongside, and with equal status to, the corporate, finance and litigation practices. It is seeking 1-5 years' qualified solicitors to work in client driven, dynamic and informal teams. (Ref.18255)

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CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL LAWYER WITH BUSINESS AWARENESS

2-5 Years' Pqe

BP is one of the world's largest petroleum and petro-chemical groups. It has established a reputation for sustained high performance and is increasingly focusing on growth through investment in existing and developing markets.

This heightened investment activity is increasing the demand for our Client's in-house legal services and it seeks to recruit a corporate/commercial lawyer to join its international legal team.

This is a unique opportunity for an ambitious lawyer looking for top quality work and a long term career in a leading plc. An excellent academic background together with first rate technical training are essential as is a high degree of self motivation, a strong commercial awareness and the self confidence to succeed at the highest levels within this innovative multi-national.

Rewards will include an attractive salary and a valuable benefits package.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Menzies on 0171 405 6062 (0181 442 0841 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Quarry Dougal In-House Legal 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HL. Confidential fax 0171 831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougal In-House Legal and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITIES

LABEL/COPYRIGHT To £46,000
This is for a label/copyright lawyer with 2-5 years' p/qe. Working with lawyers who are recognised as the best in the field, and for a firm that holds a similar distinction, you have found your perfect home. You'll need an outgoing personality to make your mark here, but you won't regret it if you do. Ref: T29585

IN-HOUSE FINANCE To £70,000
A great move away from just doing law at this top tier institution for lawyers with 1-3 years' p/qe and experience in banking, corporate or capital markets. You will assist with the bank's advisory and debt arrangement business in a varied role requiring excellent interpersonal skills. Ref: T48939

PROPERTY To £31,000
When one of the City's most respected and, more importantly, most profitable firms comes knocking, you know you have made it. A perfect first move for a newly qualified property lawyer who only wants to work on some of the biggest and best deals around. Very varied caseload guaranteed. Ref: T28514

SHIPPING To £58,000
This could be a major step up for a shipping lawyer with 1-5 years' p/qe who would also like to gain experience of working on quality corporate/commercial matters. This elite West End firm offers you the rare and lucrative chance to spread your wings by working in both these practice areas. Ref: T41382

EMPLOYMENT To £35,000
Employment law is a very competitive area to get into for young lawyers with 0-1 years' p/qe. This simply reflects the interest and quality of the work and you can be sure of both of these if you join the London office of this top regional firm, where prospects exceed those at most other firms. Ref: T41271

PROJECTS To £70,000
One of the City's best project firms can offer a golden future to a lawyer with 4-5 years' p/qe in project/infrastructure work who can handle clients, and to a more junior lawyer with 1-2 years' p/qe with relevant experience or from a related background with enthusiasm to learn. Ref: T46535

EC/COMPETITION To £60,000
This opportunity with one of the highest regarded City firms, will put you well ahead of your peers. Some of the best competition work is on offer for the best lawyers with 0-4 years' p/qe who seek a challenging and stimulating workload and unrivalled career prospects. Ref: T19453



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Nick Pennepek, Kate Sutcliffe or Adrian Fox (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-485 6062 (0171-228 0476 or 0181-789 9933 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HL. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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ملحة امه الاصل

Time to chart new course as long voyage nears end

There have been no flying fish on this leg, but we have seen more wildlife in the Atlantic than on any of the other legs. More dolphins than you can imagine, whales and even a turtle. Yet, despite the pleasures of the sailing, the leg has definitely strengthened my resolution never to go ocean racing again. Although there are rewards from doing well, it has to be one of the most frustrating pastimes I know. Looking back on miles

A black and white photograph of a globe. A rectangular label with the text "Loading yachts" is positioned to the left of the globe. A line extends from the label, pointing to a specific location on the globe's surface, which appears to be in the North Atlantic or Arctic region.

It did not take long. In one golden spell, Fisher won eight consecutive tournaments, on



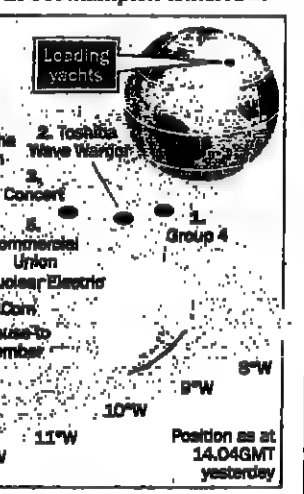
"In one respect, I was lucky, because I joined the circuit at a good time," Fisher said. "Right now, we get television coverage for six or seven

has a pleasant climate and a laid-back, southern ambience not usually associated with such a large city. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Fisher, who

Fisher, whose most recent tournament win came in Detroit in May, holds a healthy lead over Jeanette Lee at the head of the WPBA rankings and is eager for the 1997-98 campaign to begin.

Fisher, who believes that Snooker squandered a gilt-edged opportunity by not taking advantage of her novelty value, has obviously found a rewarding niche. Snooker's loss is pool's gain.

137



**Ian Pattison, Administration Manager,
The Office of the Banking Ombudsman,
70 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8NB**

CRICKET

ICC turns spotlight on problem of overkill

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

CRICKET is being urged by its senior captains to take urgent action to curtail the enlargement of the international programme. Simultaneously, however, the game is expanding in yet another direction with the first, experimental steps towards floodlit Test matches.

These are the two most significant developments after a weekend of distinguished gatherings in London. The captains of the nine Test-playing countries met at Lord's on Friday and put their recommendations to the inaugural meeting of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) upgraded cricket committee 24 hours later.

This committee, chaired by Sir Clyde Walcott, is now empowered to take binding decisions regarding international playing conditions. This enlightened break with the bureaucracy that has shackled the ICC will bear its first fruit with various changes operative from September, including an expansion of the third-umpire system, allowing replays to be used if both on-field umpires are unsure about the validity of a catch.

The matter of greatest concern, though, must be forwarded to higher powers. This is the fear, expressed by the captains but shared by everyone with the game at heart, that cricket — especially of the one-day international variety — has reached saturation point in several countries.

This threatens the health and longevity of the players and, in the longer term, the financial stability of the game itself. There were wise words on this subject emanating from the captains' meeting, which proposed that each country should schedule a maximum of ten to 12 Tests and 25 to 30 one-day internationals in any calendar year.

The second figure still seems disproportionately high to anyone English, but doubtless not in Pakistan, where the national team played 42 such

games last year. Of equal importance is the captains' request that each programme should ideally include an eight-week break in order that players can "recharge mental and overcome minor injuries". England are far from being the worst offenders when it comes to overkill.

However, from late January next year, the national team will be expected to play 16 Tests in 12 months, with never more than a three-week break. It is asking too much and the captains' proactive stance is to be applauded. The cricket committee, whose English representative is Doug Insole, apparently supports the opinion, but has no authority over the fixture programme. The matter has thus been referred to the executive board meeting, scheduled for December, which is already set to hear reports on a new world championship for Test cricket.

In time, such a tournament will probably include floodlit games over five days and nights. This once outlandish possibility has certainly been advanced by the agreement of the cricket committee that grounds with floodlights may henceforth turn them on to expedite play in a Test match during periods of poor light.

This facility does not mean that Tests can continue into the evening, or outside their regular playing hours, and its application will initially be negligible. The whole subject of floodlit Tests, however, will be reviewed at the ICC annual meeting next June and various English counties will observe with interest.

Surrey were recently stymied by the weather when they tried to stage the first day-night game on an established English ground, but Paul Sheldon, their chief executive, said yesterday: "If Test cricket does go the way of night matches, then we would do everything possible, with the blessing of our ground owners, to install permanent lights at the Oval."



Boulton, captain of MCC Schools West, pulls a ball from Robert White during his unbeaten innings of 36 yesterday

Gold diggers assess prospects

By Simon Wilde

THE man in the baseball cap sat in his deckchair on the edge of the boundary, as he has countless times over the past 25 years. "I am like a prospector looking for gold," he said. "I do not find anything very often, but you have got to keep on looking. One day, I will turn over a rock and find a nugget."

The man is Brian Reynolds, the former Northamptonshire batsman, and he was watching the final trial at the MCC Oxford Schools festival at the Wadham College ground on the outskirts of Oxford yesterday.

Reynolds has been coming to the festival since it started in 1985. In its first year, Michael Atherton and Michael Roseberry were among the leading lights; more re-

cently, Adam Hoolioake took part.

Here is a chance to glimpse England's cricketing future and for Reynolds and other county scouts to make a discovery — before someone else does. Greenville Holland, who runs cricket at Durham University, is also on the boundary, as is Graham Saville, fresh from selecting the England Under-19 team to play Zimbabwe next month. "I am here to make sure that no one has slipped through our net," Saville said.

Many of the best young cricketers have played for county youth teams before reaching their late teens, including two of the finest prospects on show yesterday, Adrian Marsh of Abbotsholme School and Derbyshire, and Nick Boulton, who has already scored a hundred for Somerset second XI.

Boulton, captaining MCC Schools West, played well for 36 before retiring at lunch to let others have a knock. The outcome of the match with the East schools is academic — the aim is to be named among the 12 to play MCC today and the National Association of Young Cricketers tomorrow, both matches at Lord's, in what is the peak of school cricketing year.

Some first-class counties are merely-mouthed about the festival, which may come under review after the reorganisation of the game by the new England and Wales Cricket Board. Gloucestershire gave out the names of seven players whom they were prepared to "release" for the festival, only to withdraw them just before it began.

Yorkshire can also be contrary, due, it is suspected, to fears that their players will be "poached", which is a pity, because the festival gives the participants a wider experience than simply one of playing a good standard of cricket.

Most of the players on view are from independent schools, where the game continues to flourish, although there is increasing competition for pupils' time from other sports and examinations. It is in secondary and primary schools where the sport fights for its life, as Reynolds knows only too well from his travels around his home county.

"The main change I've noticed in coming here over the years," Reynolds said, "is the shortage of quality, especially in bowling. There are desperately short."

Scarborough battered by wind of change

Michael Austin on the changing face of one of cricket's greatest seaside festivals

SCARBOROUGH (President's XI won 108): Yorkshire won by five wickets

FEW grounds could attract a Monday crowd of 2,700 for a festive flirt, as North Marine Road did yesterday for a match in the 11th Scarborough Festival. Yorkshire won something of a cosmetic contest against a President's XI as the festival seeks to come to terms with its enforced switch from September to July. The younger, peak holiday-season audience is being targeted to increase attendances.

Many liked it the way it was, but just to be sure, the club is handing out 500 questionnaires a day to spectators enquiring how long they have been attending and whether the songs from the tannoy that greet each batsman please or offend. As for the still-walkers playing cricket in the intervals, the youngsters loved them.

The background to the Scarborough upheaval was that Yorkshire wanted to play their early September match — which is usually at North Marine Road — at Headingley rather than have a seaside distraction, should they be in the championship hunt. It was all part of the Yorkshire policy that included ruthlessly eliminating all their other outgrounds from the fixture list.

Cec Snell, the Scarborough chief executive, said: "The switch to July was forced on us, so we had to look at the fixture gap around the Benson and Hedges Cup final to produce a programme that was attractive to crowds."

The club's original plans included sky-divers dropping in to launch the festival, but it was ruled too dangerous. As for the music, Snell said: "We have had a few complaints, but the young and middle-aged seemed to enjoy it."

Today, Yorkshire welcome back Holland, having lost to them by three wickets last summer. The crowd should exceed 3,000, but Snell knows that the championship match against Durham, starting tomorrow, is sure to pull in more spectators, whether the game was part of the festival or not.

The President's team included players from five

countries, although David Boon's XI would perhaps have been a better title. The Yorkshiremen, who have been known to beat Yorkshire here in the past, were originally pencilled in, but finding enough available players of a suitable standard ruled out that idea.

One Yorkshireman excelled in the reshaped game, Ryan Sidebottom, 19, the son of former Yorkshire fast bowler, Arnie, had figures of five for 27 and was named man of the match. Sidebottom, left-arm fast, showed his liking for the bracing air yesterday with three wickets for five runs in his first eight balls.

Shane Lee edged his loosener to Richard Blakey, Mike Rindel chipped his sixth ball to cover and Chris Harris, of New Zealand, was soon leg-before. Only Boon, with 59 from 83 balls, extended the innings, enjoying a welcome stay in the middle after a lean spell for Durham.

Harris took four for 26, but Yorkshire won with 9.1 overs to spare after Anthony McGrath and Martyn Moxon made half-centuries. Darren Harland, 17, a Scarborough batsman, was the happiest in the President's XI, having emerged to the strains of *Summer Holiday*. A strain it definitely was for some of the crowd.

PRESIDENT'S XI

J E Morris c Blakey b Sidebottom	0
M J R Rindel c White b Sidebottom	24
Art Maguba c Ash b Sidebottom	18
S Lee c Blakey b Sidebottom	14
D C Snell c Latham b Sidebottom	28
C J Harris b Sidebottom	0
R D Dwyer c Latham b Sidebottom	25
D S Harland not out	59
M W Prince c White b Sidebottom	2
H H Davis b Sidebottom	0
N Francis not out	11
Extras (b 1, w 19)	20
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)	168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-14, 3-44, 4-48, 5-81, 6-113, 7-145, 8-168, 9-182.

SCARBOROUGH: 10-1-10, 11-1-10, 12-1-10, 13-1-10, 14-1-10, 15-1-10, 16-1-10, 17-1-10, 18-1-10, 19-1-10, 20-1-10, 21-1-10, 22-1-10, 23-1-10, 24-1-10, 25-1-10, 26-1-10, 27-1-10, 28-1-10, 29-1-10, 30-1-10.

Umpires: J H Harpenden and B Leachester.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This is a hand from the Brazilian Championships. The declarer brought off a crafty swindle against Chagas (West). But the hand also said something good about Chagas and Branco (East), a pair who have won all versions of the world championship.

Dealer East	Game all	IMPs
♠ Q J 10 3		
♥ 9 4		
♦ 9 8 7 2		
♣ 10 5 4		
♠ A K 9 7 2		
♥ A 6		
♦ A K J 10 6 3		
♣ Q 7 5 2		
♠ A K J		
♣ K Q J 10 6 7 5 3		
♠ A K J		

Contract: Four Hearts by South.

East opened One Spade, and, curiously, South doubled. West showed his diamonds, and South at his next turn jumped to Four Hearts. East-West passed that out, a mistake as they could make Five Diamonds.

Declarer ruffed the diamond lead and played a spade. East took two top spades and, playing for a trump promotion, continued with a third round. Declarer ruffed with the jack of hearts and led the queen. To deny dummy entry East ducked. Declarer then advanced the jack of clubs from his hand. Chagas obviously thought that indicated his partner had a club honour, and so he played low, which looked foolish when the declarer claimed the rest of the tricks apart from the ace of hearts.

Do you see the compliment to Chagas and Branco? It is that either Branco must have ducked the queen of hearts

so smoothly that he gave no indication to West that he had the ace, or if he did give some slight indication Chagas correctly took no notice of it. If Chagas had known that East had the ace of hearts he obviously would have taken the queen of clubs, as it was the setting trick.

Information that you receive from your partner's hesitation is "unauthorised" (the term used in the Laws), and you are not allowed to take advantage of it. But somehow many Wests would have picked up enough vibes from East to play the queen of clubs on the jack: they would then argue vehemently in the post-mortem that they knew the declarer had the ace and king. It's the sort of thing that Zia describes as "smelly".

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Kramnik's prospects
Young Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik is rapidly establishing himself as the main human threat to Garry Kasparov's chess title.

In the tournament at Dortmund he overwhelmed elite opponents with remarkable ease. Of particular note was his 19 move demolition of Vasily Ivanchuk.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Vasily Ivanchuk
Dortmund, July 1997

Semi-Slav Defence

1 Nf3	Nf6
2 c4	c5
3 Nc3	c5
4 d4	e6
5 e4	Ne7
6 Qc2	b6
7 Bc3	Bb7
8 0-0	Be7
9 f3	Rc8
10 Bc2	c5
11 Qc3	Qc4
12 Qxc6	Qxc4
13 Qxd7+	Nxd7
14 Bxc3	Bb4
15 Bc4	Bc3
16 Qd3	Bc3
17 Qc3	Qc5+
18 Kh1	b5
19 Qa5	

Black resigns

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Artur Yusupov
Dortmund, July 1997

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 Nf3	c5
2 d4	Nf6
3 c4	e6
4 Nc3	Be7
5 Bf4	0-0
6 e3	c5

Black resigns

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Artur Yusupov
Dortmund, July 1997

Black to play. In this position from the game Kramnik - van der Wiel, Holland 1997, Black is material down and under attack. Here Black tried to unpin his knight with 1...Nb3, but this proved unsuccessful after the reply 2 Qg6. What should Black have done instead?

Solution on page 46

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7 Bc3	Bb7
8 0-0	Be7
9 f3	Rc8
10 Bc2	c5
11 Qc3	Qc4
12 Qxc6	Qxc4
13 Qxd7+	Nxd7
14 Bxc3	Bb4
15 Bc4	Bc3
16 Qd3	Bc3
17 Qc3	Qc5+
18 Kh1	b5
19 Qa5	

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Solution on page 46

Putting a premium on bonding

BEN HOLLOIAKE joins the England cricket squad for a bonding session in Yorkshire next week. *The Times*, July 14.

Morning: Taverners' Club, Headingley

"Now then, lad, don't be shy, you're among friends here. This is Ben, everybody, and he's joining us on work experience, to see how we do things at Team England."

General greetings: "Hello, Ben."

"You're only 19, Ben, and you've got a belting future. Being an England cricketer means you're going to travel the world and that means roughing all sorts of grub. This is not just a bat-and-ball game. It's a knife-and-fork game, too. I want you to be as comfortable with a menu as you are out in the middle. So, snap to, you lot, blindfolds on and park your bums round this table. We've got a marvellous spread on — excellent work, Mrs Grundy! — and I want you all to guess what you're eating."

General munching.

"It tastes like goulash, boss."

"Where do you think you are, Crofty? A Taffy café? We do not play Test matches in Budapest, although if you carry on talking like that you might find yourself there this winter. Put that false nose on

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

and do three laps of the ground. You think that's funny, do you, Goughy? You won't be laughing when you're hopping backwards round the pitch. Off you go. You could do with losing a few pounds. Well, Ben, what is it?"

"Some sort of tart, Mr Lloyd."

"Spot on. I never thought for a moment I could fool a Surrey lad. Right, gang, let's get cracking. Our bonding knows no bounds."

Afternoon: Hildes Moor

"This is the life! Peaks and valleys. Isn't that what life is

all about, Ben, peaks and valleys? After the peak of Edgbaston, we had to go through the valleys of Lord's and Old Trafford. Now we've got to put on our boots and start climbing again, far above the babbling brook, and head for where the eagle flies."

"There aren't any eagles in Wharfedale, Bumble. You've got to go to the Lakes to see them."

"You know all about lakes, Devon. Your bowling is as wet as Windermere."

"Look, boss, a murder of crows!"

"One across, six letters. What cricketers do in Zimbabwe?"

"Very funny, children. Now settle down. I was just telling our young friend that we had to reach for the sky, so let's all pretend to be Kenneth More. Put on your blazers, stick those pipes in your mouths and repeat after me: 'I say, old boy.' 'Jolly good show, what? 'Oh, ra-ther.' Come on, Thorpey, I thought this was your favourite game."

Evening: Ballroom, Marriott Hotel

"What are we doing now, Mr Lloyd?"

"Well, this is what we call the National Pageant. On with your togs, everybody!"

General disrobing.

"You see, everybody dresses

up as a famous national character from the past — Nasser, lad, your slip showing — and then we have a parade through the city. Last year, Athens went as Nelson and somebody shouted: 'If you'd been in charge of the fleet at Trafalgar, we'd be speaking French.' One time, someone pretended to be Lady Godiva. If I'm not mistaken, he plays for your club. I felt sorry for the horse, me."

"Does it do any good, this pageant?"

"Oh aye. It's an excellent bonding routine, and a pretty good guide to character. Not always, though. We gave Hicky the nod once, because he made such a wonderful impression as King Alfred. Unfortunately, he left the cakes in the oven when he went out to bat the next day and life has never been the same since. Creepy, what are you doing with that wig?"

Midnight residents' bar

"Have you enjoyed your day with Team England, Ben? Did you get the gist of our little bonding ceremony?"

"Oh yes, Mr Lloyd, I enjoyed it very much."

"Good. Now go off and make a few hundreds and we might ask you back in about three years."

Of course, it could all be very different.

Sri Lanka fight hard for victory

SRI LANKA produced a typically spirited performance to defeat Pakistan by 15 runs in the opening match of the four-nation Asia Cup tournament in Colombo yesterday. Chasing a target of 239, Pakistan were restricted to 224 for nine in 50 overs.

Even that total looked well outside their compass after a difficult start on a slowing pitch produced 51 runs from 12 overs for the loss of their top three batsmen. The middle order steadied the ship, but the turning point came with the total on 165 for four when Inzamam-ul-Haq was run out for 48. Responding to a call from Salim Malik, Inzamam failed to beat a direct hit from

Upal, the substitute fielder, at square leg.

After the departure of Moin Khan for 14 with the score on 205 for six, Salim opened up and was clean bowled by Dharmasena going for a big hit. His demise, after hitting 57

from 79 balls, signalled the end of Pakistan's quest for victory.

Pakistan won the toss and put Sri Lanka in on a damp but slow pitch. Their bowlers did well to curb Sri Lanka initially, restricting them to 78 for one in the first 15 overs.

Jayasuriya did not look at his best and went for 33 in the eleventh over, driving to mid-off, where Rameez Raja held a fine running catch.

De Silva looked to be getting in for a big innings, plundering 34 from 42 balls, until he fell to a superb diving catch by Saqlain off Aamir Sohail. At 160 for two, Sri Lanka still looked well placed to reach a total of 250 or more, but that did not allow for a batting collapse that included three run-outs in 17 balls.

Their last eight wickets fell for only 79 runs off 94 balls, but Atapattu, the opener, anchored the innings, staying until the 45th over and scoring 80 runs from 114 balls.

Patel leaves Test scene

DIPAK PATEL, 38, the New Zealand all-rounder, is expected to announce his retirement from international cricket tomorrow. Patel, born in Kenya, had two seasons with Worcestershire before emigrating in 1985.

He has played 37 Tests for his adopted country, scoring 1,200 runs at an average of 20.68 and taking 75 wickets with his off breaks at 42.05 apiece. Only six New Zealand players — Glenn Turner, John Wright, Martin Crowe, Bert Sutcliffe, Geoff Howarth and John Reid — have scored more first-class runs.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- FRIPIER**
a. Hairdresser
b. Clothes dealer
c. Ancient assault weapon
- GUAICENCE**
a. Colourless oil
b. A nocturnal bird
c. A sharp-shooting hunter

- ESCHATOLOGY**
a. The study of plastics
b. The study of pathological liars
c. The study of heaven and hell
- DAMOISEAU**
a. Lady of the manor
b. A young gentleman
c. The dawn chorus

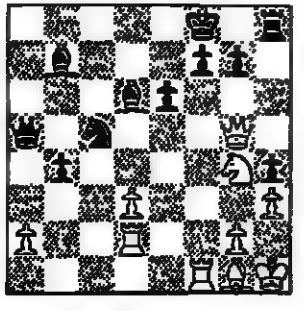
Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. In this position from the game Kramnik - van der Wiel, Holland 1997, Black is material down and under attack. Here Black tried to unpin his knight with 1...Nb3, but this proved unsuccessful after the reply 2 Qg6. What should Black have done instead?

Solution on page 46



ملتا من الاصل

No doubting Thomas's new fame

TWO weeks ago, sitting in his hotel room on the morning of the Lausanne grand prix meeting, Iwan Thomas was asked whether he felt that he was receiving fair media exposure. "I would like more recognition, but don't deserve it yet," he said. "I have got to do something really special."

That night, Thomas ran a good race, but nothing special. Three days earlier, he had forfeited his chance of an historic run when, five strides from the finish of the 400 metres at the British grand prix meeting in Sheffield, he threw his arms aloft and began to celebrate victory. The showmanship had cost him a British record.

Finally, on Sunday, Thomas did another special. He sliced 0.01sec off Roger Black's national record, running to the line. His consistency this season, together with his personal best of 44.36sec, marks him as the safest each-way bet for a medal in his event at the world championships in Athens next month.

Thomas has been honest enough to admit that he hoped that Michael Johnson, the world and Olympic champion, would not be in Athens. However, it emerged yesterday that he will be. The International Amateur Athletic Federation confirmed that all world champions from Gothenburg, two years ago, would be invited to compete and Johnson, who had been omitted from the United States team, said, through Brad Hunt, his manager, that he would accept.

Theoretically Johnson could run the 200 and 400 metres, as world champion in both, but, even before he pulled up injured during his 150 metres against Donovan Bailey in June, he had said that he would defend only one title. Given his recent quadriceps injury, Johnson had opted for the 400 metres because the shorter race 'puts more pressure on my legs'. Add the fact that the 200 metres would provide stiffer opposition for Johnson - Alzo Boldon, Maurice Greene and Frankie Fredericks each ran inside 20 seconds on Sunday - and it seems that he has no choice to make.

The IAAF invitations still leave no place for Butch Reynolds, the world record-



holder, from the United States. Only Johnson, with 43.75sec. and Reynolds, with 44.08sec. have run faster than Thomas this season, but Reynolds did not qualify for the United States team after finishing sixth in the trials.

Asked in Lausanne about the uncertainty over Johnson's participation in Athens, Thomas said: "I do not want him there. No, No." Yesterday, asked whether the news had taken the shine off Sunday, he said: "No. Nobody can take away my British record and I am very proud of it. If I were to win in Athens and he was not there, everybody

was not there, everybody would say it was because he was not there. I am not saying I am going to beat Michael Johnson, but everybody is

beatable and I am going to do my best."

While Thomas declines to speculate how fast he can go, the ten-year-old European record of 44.33sec is a big goal for him.

in Lausanne, Thomas had been saying that, outside the Southampton area where he lives, he was hardly recognised. He sensed a change within hours of setting his British record. Stopping at a motorway service station on the way home, he was asked for his autograph. "A girl, about my age," he said. "I think I deserve the recognition."

One can hardly say that it has been a long time coming: Roger Black had won two European titles before Thom-

as even began to think of becoming an athlete. When he was invited to appear on *A Question of Sport*, he had to ask his coach to give him lessons in the history of 400 metres running.

In his early teens, Thomas was a successful BMX racer, finishing ninth in the 1987 world championships and fourth in the European championships a year later. He dropped out of the sport when his sponsor separated from his wife and moved away. He dabbled with athletics, but was not keen and the 1988 English schools cross country championships proved a miserable experience. "It was cold, muddy, horrible," Thomas said. "I did not like athletics until I moved to the United States."

Even then, he preferred rugby, playing for county and district, but then he broke five athletics records in his school sports. "That was when it all changed, 1992," Thomas said. "I did not start running until I was 18."

An open and affable character, Thomas, now 23, has peaked while having to deal with the end of a seven-year romance. "It was devastating," he said, "but I have got to put all my private problems out of my mind because this is a massive year for me. She was the first person I wanted to phone after I won in Sheffield, but I cannot afford to speak to her because it will just muck my mind up again."

Michael Johnson does not need that kind of help.

Taylor takes pleasure in his qualified success

IF A random selection of golfing enthusiasts were to be invited to stand in line and take a step smartly forward if they had heard of one Yestyn Taylor, it is worthwhile surmising that they would stay resolutely staring ahead in dumb incomprehension and not moving a muscle.

Taylor may be a household name in his own household, but until yesterday his fame did not spread much further abroad. Taylor is one of those bright young amateurs who every year makes a name for himself in the final qualifying stages of the Open Championship. On Sunday, he had a 69 at Western Gailes that came as a pleasant surprise, but the best was yet to come.

With confidence boosted by his first-round form, Taylor strode out and produced a 67 to finish one shot behind the experienced tournament professionals, José Coceres and Brendan McGovern.

Taylor is a member of a remarkable little club called Brynhill, near Barry, which has produced more fine amateurs than any club of its size is normally entitled to do.

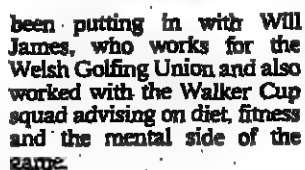
Stephen Dodd, a former Amateur champion, was nurtured there, and so was Calvin O'Carroll, the former British boys' champion. Taylor, who won the Welsh amateur championship at Ashburnham last year, has continued that distinguished line. They may well have been dancing in the streets in that neck of the Welsh woods last night.

Taylor has played at all levels for Wales and was a

member of the squad from which the Walker Cup team for this year was selected. A nervous, highly-strung individual, he did not make the final line-up and, so liberated, played some of the best golf of his career in the past two days.

"It was a funny round today," he said. "I birdied the difficult holes but threw away a couple of shots at the easier ones. But you do expect to drop shots in the wind, so you just have to get on with it."

Taylor attributed his heady form to the work that he has



"In the past I was too hard on myself," Taylor said. "If I dropped a shot I would try and force hard to make a birdie at the next, and invariably end up dropping another shot. I feel much more positive now." He could say that again.

There were the usual tales of derring-do to be told, as there are every year in this sophisti-

cated form of sporting torture. Richard Boxall, who has made a habit in the past few years of burning up final qualifying courses, did it again, adding a 67 to his first-round 69 to qualify in some style at Inverness.

There was a high-octane pairing at Irvine, where the first two places were filled by John Kernohan, an American professional, and Guirav Ghei, one of 35 players from the Asian PGA's Omega Tour playing in the final qualifying rounds. Kernohan had rounds of 67 and 66, beating Ghei by two strokes. Four Omega players go into the Championship proper.

Meanwhile, at Glasgow Gailes, Wayne Westner, the big-hitting South African with the deceptively lazy-looking swing, finished on 135 alongside Ken Duke, of the United

Two years ago Steven Bottomley produced the performance of his life to finish tied for third place at St Andrews, but in spite of two rounds of 69 at Kilmarnock Barassie he is not counting his chickens. "I'm in the same sort of form as I was in at St Andrews," he said. "That is, up and down. I was in the same sort of shape before 1995 — perhaps it's an omen." Perhaps it is; more likely, it is not.

□ Larry Mize was one of the top casualties of qualifying yesterday. The 1987 Masters champion failed to survive at Western Gables despite a second round 70 for a level-par 142.

<p>Great Britain and Ireland unless marked</p> <p>GLASGOW GALLIES (ear 71)</p> <p>194: J Ramsey (Fr) 65, 68 195: K Duke (US) 65, 65; W Westair (Sw) 66, 65; S Durnip (US) 67, 68 196: M Miller 69, 67; P Phillips 70, 67 197: T Goodwin (GB) 68, 68; R J. Jackson (Fr) 67, 67; G Dodd (Aus) 69, 68; J Swanburne (US) 70, 67 198: C Perry (US) 71, 67; M Marns (Sw) 67, 67; P Verheulden (US) 67, 67 (after play)</p> <p>Leading non-qualifiers: 192: D Robertson 68, 68; M McGill 71, 67; M. Morrison (Sw) 68, 68; 193: D Smyth 72, 67, 140: D Hammond (US) 68, 74, 144: R Hailley 73, 71</p>	<p>IRVINE BOARDS (ear 71)</p> <p>193: J Ketchen (US) 67, 68 194: G Reid (Sw) 67, 67 195: R Boscail 69, 67; J Payne 68, 67 P Davis (Aus) 67, 65; F Howard 65, 68 197: D A Russell 67, 70; A Sindqvist 67, 70; G On 67, 67 198: P Hamberg (Nor) 68, 68; M Rha 67, 71; A Cramer 70, 68; P Purser (US) 71 67 (after play)</p> <p>Leading non-qualifiers: 196: E Rutland (USA) 67, 71; D Choppe (Sw) 68, 73</p> <p>KILMARNOCK BARASSIE (ear 73)</p> <p>195: S Bottemley 68, 68; P O'Malley (Aus) 67, 71 196: D Topping 68, 67; S. Westfall 68, 71; G Day (USA) 71, 68</p>	<p>140: G Murphy 68, 72; R Karlsson (Sw) 71, 68 141: G Brand-Jr 71 70; G Mason 72 69; P Hilton 68 72; G Clark 71 70 142: C Clark 70, 72; M Bradley 73, 69; Sear 72, 70</p> <p>Leading non-qualifiers: 146: G J Brand 72, 73; D Dorman 72, 73.</p> <p>WESTERN GALLIES (ear 71)</p> <p>195: J Coates (Aus) 67, 68; S McIlwain 68, 67 196: J. Brown 69, 67; D Howell 68, 67 197: S. Young 69, 68; J Kelly 70, 67 A Cebrian (Arg) 68, 68; A. Morrison (USA) 68, 69 198: P. J. Brown 68, 68; K. Kirkpatrick (Sw) 68, 67; J. Miller 70, 67; P. Perry 68, 68</p> <p>CHIEF'S BARASSIE</p>
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**TODAY'S
FEATURES**

CRICKET

Boys' Stones Challenge
11.0, 20 overs

SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire vs
Holland

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (one
day): Lord's: MCC vs MCC

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first
day of four): Taunton: Somerset vs
Worcestershire. The Oval: Surrey vs
Kent.

ACORN RISK TROPHY (one day):
Chesham: Essex vs MCC Young
Cricketers. Bristol: Gloucestershire vs
Worcestershire. Walsley: CCC: Not-
tinghamshire vs Derbyshire

**MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPION-
SHIP** (first day of four): Carlisle:
Cumbria vs Lancashire. Wey-
mouth: Dorset vs Cornwall.

RUGBY UNION

Tour match

Omnia vs Wales XV
(in Hamilton, midweek)

FOOTBALL

International tournament,
Derry City vs Celtic (6.0)

Norwich vs PSV Eindhoven (8.15)

Don't
forget: Lancashire Road,
Dublin.

Omnia vs Celtic: Purfleet vs West
Ham United (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Representative match:
England Under-21 vs Combined Scot-
land (at National Stadium, Milton
Keynes, 6.0).

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup:
Salford vs Bradford vs Eastbourne
(7.30). Premier League: Hull vs
Leeds (7.30). Amateur League: St
August vs Ipswich and King's Lynn.

TEENIE: Challenge tournament (in
Manchester).

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Understudy Ullrich set to take lead role

FROM JEREMY WHITTE IN LOUDENVILLE

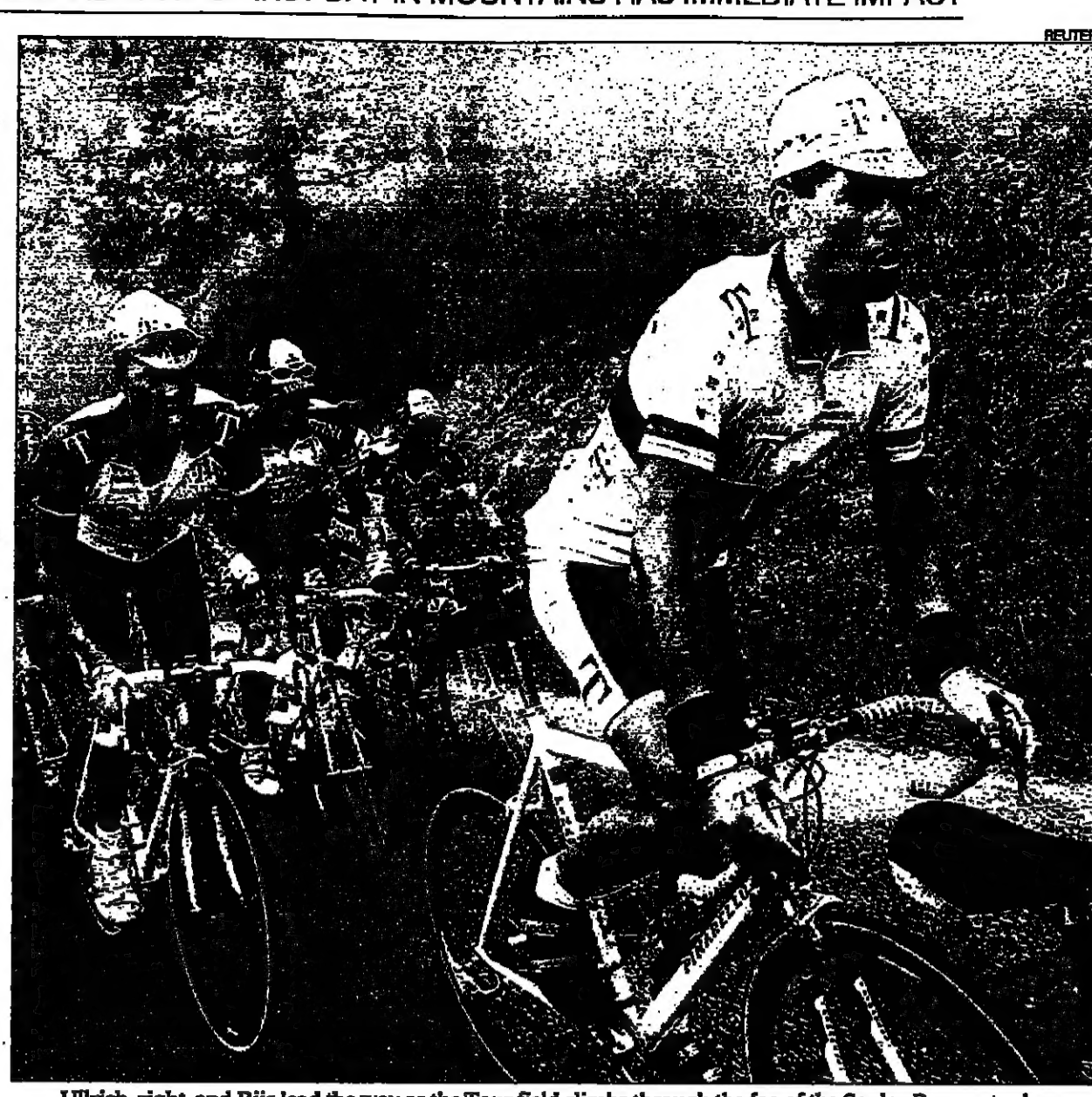
THE climbers finally had their day yesterday when the Tour de France field shattered into small groups in the mist-shrouded Pyrenees and Laurent Brochard, of France, stole an unexpected win in the mountain stage of Loudenvielle.

However, while Brochard is the fuse of Bastille Day celebrations, Jan Ullrich, of Germany, the supposed understudy to Bjorne Riis, the defending champion, emerged as the race favourite, in spite of riding throughout the day for his struggling team-mate.

Riis, from Denmark, the leader of the Telekom team, struggled to follow Ullrich's pace on the Col du Val Louron, the final climb of the stage, and lost touch with his protégé, who moved decisively clear with Richard Virenque, of France, and Marco Pantani, of Italy.

Chris Boardman's hopes of a high final placing were dealt a serious blow when he crashed heavily on the descent of the Col du Souler and lost time before finishing the stage in some pain.

"Another rider came shooting past me on the descent," Boardman said. "I thought he must have known the way down, even in the fog, but suddenly we were riding up an embankment and I ended up rolling into the ditch. After that, I was trapped, as nobody I was with wanted to chase the race and I couldn't ride alone for 130 kilometres.



Ullrich, right, and Riis lead the way as the Tour field climbs through the fog of the Souler Pass yesterday

"I think I have displaced two vertebrae, but we are going to the hospital for X-rays to check. If it was any other race, I would probably be going home now, but this is the Tour de France. There is no question of me stopping."

With the sprint stages behind them, the field rode into the heart of the French Pyrenees in humid and overcast conditions. On the first climb of the Col du Souler, the pace was high enough to take about 60 riders, including Boardman, clear as Virenque's Festina team set a high tempo.

The relentless attacks were clearly aimed at disturbing the normally implacable Riis, but, at the summit of the Col du Tourmalet, after 106 kilometres, Riis was still sitting comfortably alongside Ullrich and Virenque, even though the lead group had dwindled to about a dozen.

On the lush valley roads, though, leading to the foot of the final climb—the steep and narrow Col du Val Louron—the cracks first began to appear in the Riis's defences. With Brochard, Virenque's team-mate, attacking at the foot of the climb, and Festina riders: still dictating events, Telekom's waiting game came to an end and Ullrich moved forward in an attempt to discourage any further break-aways.

Virenque attacked four times in the 12-kilometre climb, taking the red-faced Riis beyond his limits until

finally, with Ullrich smoothly in tow, he and Pantani sprinted clear as they approached the summit.

Meanwhile, Brochard, who had earlier been left behind, recovered his strength yet again and he passed the trio on the descent to sail clear to his first Tour stage win.

Just behind them, Cedric Vasseur, Boardman's French team-mate, surpassed all expectations to cling on to the race lead by just 13sec from

Ullrich, but the 20-kilometre finishing climb to Andorra today is expected to prove too much for him.

Despite being dropped by his team-mate, Riis was confident later, saying: "Even though I suffered on the last climb, I am still the [team] leader. It is normal for me to have a bad first day in the mountains. Anyway, if Ullrich takes the lead, it doesn't matter. He won't have to for long."

TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

NINTH STAGE (Pau to Loudenvielle, 182km): 1. L. Brochard (Fr, Festina) 5h 24m 25s; 2. R. Virenque (Fr, Festina) 5h 24m 25s; 3. M. Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 4. J. Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) same time; 5. J. M. L. Janssens (Bel, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 6. R. Virenque (Fr, Festina) 5h 24m 25s; 7. M. Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 8. J. Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) same time; 9. J. M. L. Janssens (Bel, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 10. R. Virenque (Fr, Festina) 5h 24m 25s; 11. M. Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 12. J. Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) same time; 13. J. M. L. Janssens (Bel, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 14. R. Virenque (Fr, Festina) 5h 24m 25s; 15. M. Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 16. J. Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) same time; 17. J. M. L. Janssens (Bel, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 18. R. Virenque (Fr, Festina) 5h 24m 25s; 19. M. Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno) 5h 24m 25s; 20. J. Ullrich (Ger, Telekom) same time; 21. J. M. L. 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My strife next door and other sad stories

Robert Frost was right: good fences do make good neighbours. The trouble starts when the very fences are the cause of the upset neighbours, to the point where learned friends start to rub their hands at the prospect of another lucrative day before bed. Civil dissent keeps a hair-trigger in silk, so to say.

And fill an hour in the television schedules. Neighbours From Hell (ITV) did the job last night, appealing to our need for programmes that reassure us that whatever we might have on our plates, there are others who only see plates when one is being thrown at them. I have decent folk living behind my fence and the mob on show in this documentary made them seem all the better.

At least one of the tales told was a re-tread. Hal Hussain, the Lancaster shopkeeper hounded by racists, has been the subject of a previous documentary, but I learnt

from this one that there are now 39 of Hussain's "neighbours" who have criminal records as a consequence of attacking him or his shop. Hussain is one of the bravest and most dignified people I have ever heard about but to include him in this programme jarred somewhat. The people who caused all the other neighbourly disputes here were daft or stubborn or vindictive individuals reacting to individual and specific events; Hussain's torturers are born racist, a baying collective of racist morons with porridge for brains. Not that more rational disputes are more edifying, or less traumatising. Michael Jones has even set up a victim support group so that people in dispute with neighbours have somewhere to go for advice and comfort. Jones had been made miserable by people planting trees. "Three neighbours got together and decided to confide us out on the

eastern and southern boundaries." Confide us out? I rather like that the language can always use a new verb form. If trees had done for Jones, who was to spend 18 years fighting his persecutors, it was a hedge that put Brenda and John Laws in the shade. They had bought an "idyllic" former head gardener's cottage in the grounds of a big house, which was fine until the owner of the big house planted a hedge eight feet from the Laws' living room, blocking the view from five windows. Why did he do that? Mr and Mrs Laws think that the neighbour hopes to buy back their house at a low price.

I am clearer as to how a dispute arises when Richard Jobson, the television presenter, and Sir Neville Bowdler Shaw, the neighbouring landowner, got going. Shaw wanted to put some of his farm land adjacent to Jobson's industrial use, Jobson objected, the

REVIEW

Peter Barnard



objection was upheld, Shaw put pigs into the area instead, Jobson's children contracted "notifiable diseases often associated with farm animals".

The above is of course merely a sequence of events. The thing that makes farmers smile when neighbours snarl is that a sequence of events is not necessarily consequential. Jobson thinks the pigs were an act of revenge, but this

does not make them so. This and other cases in the programme left me, rather unusually, crying out for some analysis.

I longed for somebody to tell me what all this behaviour meant, but all I got was a different example of it. Most television documentaries have given up trying to explain things; instead they demonstrate just how conscientious their researchers have been. You wait to reach through the screen, grab the producer by the throat and say: I know what you tell me why. They rarely do, though.

People are always on about the BBC's *Watchdog* but among programmes aimed at consumers I prefer *Dosh* (Channel 4), though when it comes to cheeky grins there is not much to choose between Anne Robinson and Adam Faith. *Dosh* is presented by Faith in mile-a-minute style and the items are nicely mixed.

One of last night's was flawed,

however. The subject was global shopping and as part of that two young women went to New York to see if the cheapness of the goods over there compared with over here made the trip worthwhile. The weakness was that it gave individual price savings without telling us how much was saved in total and whether the saving exceeded the air fare.

However, the exercise did demonstrate that CDs and clothes, to take the best examples, are massively cheaper in New York than in London: the British shopper simply isn't demanding enough. The old rule of thumb, that the pound price in London is likely to be the dollar price in New York, still applies: a CD cost £12.99 in London and £12.99 in New York.

And finally a few words about Channel 5: yes, it is still going, thank you for asking. The funda-

mental problem at Channel 5 is that none of its programming is essential viewing; there is nothing on tonight that lots of people will be talking about tomorrow.

Still, there was something on last night that is worth a mention today. *Close Encounters: 24 Hours in Deepest Dulwich* was a wildlife programme, some of which was filmed at night. Given the Channel 5 reputation in some parts of the country, that decision deserves a bravery award. But aside from a pedestrian nation, this tale of a 24-hour in the 60-ft garden of a London house was absorbing and informative.

Did you know, for example, that whereas three species of dragonfly have been lost to the countryside in the past 25 years, none has disappeared from London? Nor did I. The reason for their absence down my way is that I have been putting them in the neighbours' milk, but that's another documentary.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (2448)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (3784)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (342448)

9.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (1845592)

9.50 Kilroy (1) (5510680)

10.30 Who'll Do the Pudding? (72844)

11.00 News: regional news and weather (728739)

11.05 Out South Fraser and Vecchio go undercover as used-car salesmen (1) (1) (2451450)

11.50 Good Neighbours (2022221)

12.00 News (1) (3589997)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (6273979)

12.30 Neighbours (1) (8921738)

1.00 News (1) and weather (30931)

1.30 Regional News (4250808)

1.40 Perry Mason: The Case of the Skin-Deep Scandal (1993) A cosmetics company owner is murdered. Directed by Christian I. Nyby II (1) (3828047)

3.10 Outlaw (1949080)

4.00 Popeye (1) (7067202) 4.10 Rugrats (1) (4335858) 4.30 Found the Twist (1) (1) (8072032) 5.00 The Last of the Mohicans (1) (1114196)

5.10 Act-A-Live (1) (4702000)

5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (472990)

6.00 News (1) and weather (467)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (537)

7.00 Summer Holiday: A villa holiday in Florida. Camerapersons from the comfort of a farmhouse, and why hell-

million British go to Italy every year. Plus, Kate Humble on the Naples-Est Coast (1) (2979)

7.30 EastEnders Barry meets business with pleasure and Tony is horrified when he is confronted over his relationship with Polly (1) (851)

8.00 Driving School: Learner driver Mauraen hopes she is ready for the final challenge. While, Dany's, long-distance love affair, seems to have taken a wrong turn and when she gets her driving licence for the first time, last in series (1) (3398)

8.30 Keeping Up Appearances: The prospect of Richard's early retirement opens doors for aspiring socialite Hyacinth (1) (2414)

9.00 News (1) and weather (6778)

9.30 The Broker's Men: Sledge A. Falkland's veterans try to trace an old comrade, but a happy reunion is not his motive. Jimmy's efforts to patch up his ailing marriage with a trip to the country come to nothing when he discovers he has business in mind (1) (347890)

10.20 The X-Files: Scully's psychological problems surface after an incident at a Minneapolis graveyard (1) (789028)

11.05 You Decide: John Humphrys invites a studio audience to debate a topical issue, while a phone-in vote decides the final verdict (1) (249000)

12.00 On My Own (1992) A 16-year-old boy, visiting his divorced parents, discovers his mother's being treated for schizophrenia. With Judy Davis and Matthew Ferguson. Directed by Antonio Tabeti (1992)

1.35am Weather (2331784)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: The Promised Land (7091682) 6.25 Nathan the Wise (7067487) 6.50 Victorians and the Art of the Past (1001221)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (1) (663778)

7.30 The Moonlight (7082134) 7.55 Get Your Own Back (622369) 8.30 The Brodie (6801467) 8.35 The Record (6223198)

9.00 Cartoon (5726080) 9.10 The Phil Silvers Show (1263370) 9.35 Great Mysteries and Myths of the 20th Century (2504912) 10.00 Teletubbies (59195)

10.30 Lady for a Night (1942) Costume drama with Joan Blondell and John Wayne. A down-at-heel gambler marries into an aristocratic family from America's Deep South. Directed by Leigh Jason (38554)

12.00 See Hear (1) (1) (61738) 12.30pm Working Lunch (68370) 1.00 Joshua Jones (2513579) 1.10 Off the Beaten Track: Oz Clarke follows the course of the Tour de France to the finish line, Dorset. Last in series (1) (600387) 1.40 Blockbusters (5905912) 2.05 The Natural World (1) (5918467) 3.00 News (1) (1041370) 3.05 Westminster (680134) 3.55 News (1) (248080)

4.00 Cinderella (1980) Jerry Lewis comedy. Directed by Frank Tashlin (683981)

4.25 Country Walks to Carleton Place (7772233) 5.35 Children in Need Special (1) (470202) 6.00 Heartbreak High (1) (233405)

6.45 Gower's Cricket Monthly As the Ashes series reaches the halfway mark, David Gower reflects on the state of play, and Dennis Lillee and Derek Randall recall some magic moments from the Century-Test at Melbourne in 1977 (432008)

7.30 Home Ground: The complementary medicine industry (1) (573)

8.00 Call My Bluff (1) (1) (6641)

8.30 Alan's Barbecue Bible: Greece (2/6) (6778)

9.00 Taking Back My Life Television film. Nancy Ziegenmeyer is raped by a stranger and begins a battle with justice for herself. Directed by Harry Winer (5047)

10.30 Newsnight (710912)

11.15 50 Bus Stop: After a night under canvas the strain is too much for Ken and the four teams to be doomed (141757)

11.45 X-Files (43418)

11.55 Weather (508890)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (42548)

12.30am Learning Zone: OU - the Management of Nuclear Waste 1.00 Project Manager 1.30 The Film: Joyce 2.00 Star Gazers Collections 2.40 Teaching and Learning with IT 3.30 Film Education: The Fall and Rise of Cinema 5.00 Inside Europe 5.30 Film Education: Multiplex

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1570432)

5.55 Win, Lose or Draw (1) (1832931)

9.55 Judge Judy (1) (4545680)

10.20 News (1) (5347757)

10.25 Regional News (1) (8348028)

10.30 Married Wyatt Earp (1983) Western drama starring Marjorie Monaghan, Bruce Boxleitner and John Bennett Perry. Directed by Michael O'Hairthy (9402208)

12.20pm Regional News (1) (559134)

12.30 News (1) and weather (8940863)

12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (4146180) 12.55 Shortland Street (8225554) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (3763399) 1.50 Life's a Lie (1) (5812202) 2.20 Shattered Promises (1) (1) (5815370)

3.20 News (1) (1068880)

3.30 The Riddlers (1) (4364405) 3.40 Ozzy the Owl (1) (550228) 3.50 Zed the Dog (1) (154922) 4.00 Scooby-Doo (1) (552370) 4.10 The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (1) (118411) 5.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (1) (221)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (888) 4.30 Countdown (1) (862467)

4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (1) (291590)

5.00 Pet Rescue (1) (1) (582)

6.00 Space Cadets: A new science fiction comedy quiz (1/10) (1) (405)

6.30 Tour de France Stage ten - Luchon to Arrens-Ancles, a distance of 225km (757)

7.00 Channel 4 News (1). Headlines and weather at 7.30 (244631)

7.50 World Early Music Festival: The Musicians of Grope Lane (279641)

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Hart to Hart Returns. A made-for-television crime-fighting caper starring Robert Wagner and Stephanie Powers (9402208)

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8225554)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1768863)

6.25-7.00 Antiques Roadshow (740370)

7.30-8.00 Blenheim Palace (399)

12.55pm Film: Stompin' at the Savoy (51213)

2.10 In Focus (2545177)

3.00 ITV at the Phoenix Festival (6948238)

3.55 The Big Match Replay (221852)

4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (7587239)

5.20 Asian Eye (5317754)

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Hart to Hart Returns (1993). A made-for-television crime-fighting caper starring Robert Wagner, Stephanie Powers and David Rasche (9402208)

12.55pm Home and Away (4556450)

1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (1745565)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1768863)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (25365)

7.30-8.00 Stately Homes (399)

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10.30am Film: Home is Where the Hart is. A made-for-television crime caper starring Robert Wagner and Stephanie Powers (9402208)

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CENTRAL

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SAILING 41

Lucy Duncan plans new course as voyage nears end

SPORT

TUESDAY JULY 15 1997

Former champions overshadowed

Woods finds sand after picnic lunch

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LIKE a long approach putt that curves in towards the hole, all is slowly falling into place at Royal Troon, where the 126th Open Championship begins on Thursday. The wind, if one can glorify a little huffing of light air as such, blew from the northwest. This is over a golfer's right shoulder on the way out and over the left shoulder on the more difficult inward half. Across the Firth of Clyde, the Isle of Arran stood out stark and clear.

Two events yesterday morning confirmed that serious practice had begun. First came the ritual announcement from Scott Hoch, of the United States, that he was withdrawing from the tournament. No surprises there. He has played in 35 major championships dating back to his first in 1979, but only two Opens.

Down the years, Hoch's attitude to the Open has varied from contempt to disrespect to indifference. The only surprise is why he goes through the ritual of entering when almost certainly he is going to withdraw.

Then came The Arrival. Tom Lehman, the defending champion, had come to the clubhouse with no fanfare, as had Mark Calavecchia, the champion in 1989, who would shortly go out on to the course on his own with Sheryl, his wife, caddie for him. In time, Tom Watson and Fred Couples would begin a practice round, as would Ernie Els, the US Open champion. Vijay Singh, Bernhard Langer and Jeff Maggert.

But at 12.40pm, Tiger Woods arrived at the stone clubhouse, laughing as he walked through the revolving door and immediately turned left into the men's changing rooms. Moments later, he emerged to hit some practice putts and give a cool half-wave to two youngsters who shout-

ed his name across the 1st fairway. He made his way to the tee, where 50 spectators had gathered and where Mike Cowan, his caddie, who is known as "Fluff", pulled the woollen cover off Woods's driver and handed over the metal wood. With it, Woods hit his first stroke at Troon, a powerful, low drive that bounded down the fairway well past the second of the two sentinel bunkers but finished 70 yards short of the flagstick on this 364-yard hole.

Woods looked focused and



Open qualifying — 44
Nicholas walks tall — 46

talked little. He seemed relaxed. Autograph requests were declined. Walking to the tee at the 3rd, Woods was touched by a spectator. "I'm never going to wash again," the spectator said. On the 6th, Woods spoke to a little boy who was eating a hamburger. "What's it like?" he asked. "Brilliant" was the reply.

A club manufacturer's representative was sent off to buy some and returned with a selection of steak, chicken and bacon burgers. Duly victualled, Woods hit a wooden second shot on the longest hole of the course and his ball struggled to the front edge.

Mark O'Meara, the senior member of the group and something of an older brother to Woods, led the way on the

8th. His wedge at the Postage Stamp hole flew high and landed softly 15 feet from the flag. "I'll take that every day," O'Meara said. Woods's first shot, low and fizzing, hit the bank between the two bunkers on the left and bounded down into the sand. He made two attempts before he got his ball out of the steep, kidney-shaped bunker that is no more than 8ft wide.

Calavecchia has shaved his head and removed most of a goatee from his chin. Even his mother might not have recognised him. Well known or anonymous, Calavecchia knew what success in the Open had done for him. "Winning put my name on a list," Calavecchia said. "I won a major championship. A lot of guys cannot say that."

And so Woods came to the end of his practice round, passing the Marine Hotel as afternoon tea was being served. He would not have known of the bet placed on him by a man from Luton.

"What are the odds on Tiger Woods?" the man asked.

"You mean to win the Open?" a William Hill employee said.

"No, to become president of the US by 2020."

"1,000-1." At this, the punter placed £30 on the table. "You've had a failed actor, so you might as well have a successful golfer," the William Hill person replied.

Woods had looked comfortable on the golf course all afternoon. "He hit a lot of knock-down shots out there today," Butch Harmon, his coach said. "He is very confident with them. He has a great touch and that is what you need to hit them."

As Woods and John Cook, O'Meara and Dudley Hart walked off the last green, Cook remarked: "It is 5pm on Monday and nobody is interested in Tom Watson."

Woods entered the clubhouse. Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll see you tomorrow, tomorrow," he said. It sounded like a song from a Sondheim musical.



Woods launches into a fairway wood at the 6th, the longest hole at Troon

CYCLING 45

Boardman brought down to earth in Tour de France



Master golfer can help to break barriers

Pat Gibson on the black players reaping dividends from the Tiger phenomenon

WHEN two venerable members of a Sussex golf club saw a dozen or more black men turn up to play their course, they were so shocked that they almost drove their buggy into a bunker. Daryl Odey, the captain of the Afro-Caribbean Golf Society, chuckled at the memory as he prepared to leave for the Open Championship at Royal Troon on an initiative that could make black golfers a more familiar sight on Great Britain's courses.

Odey is one of six members of his society who are going to Troon at the invitation of Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient, to watch Tiger Woods play in his first Open as a professional and then talk about setting up an academy to encourage black British youngsters to try to emulate him.

Bonallack was alerted to the society's ambition when he watched the television programme, *Black Britain*, which focused on the prospects for black British golfers in the wake of Woods's phenomenal success in the Masters. "He is very keen on anything to do with youth golf," Odey said, "and phoned and offered his assistance in any way he could. He also sent us six tickets for the Open and agreed to meet us on the Monday after it."

"There are a lot of youngsters of all nationalities who want to play golf, but one of the reasons why we are keen to introduce youngsters of Afro-Caribbean parentage to the sport is because they would not normally be exposed to it. The great thing about the Tiger Woods phenomenon is that it has made people of all races realise that golf is not just a sport for the rich and famous, it's a sport for everybody."

Not that the Afro-Caribbean Golf Society did not know that already. It was formed three years ago when two groups of four who had taken up the game met by chance and decided that they ought to have their own society. Now there are nearly 70 members, including two tournament professionals, Robert Forde and Allan Jarrett, who play on

the Challenge circuit — the springboard to the European Tour.

They have a society day once a month at courses around the Home Counties and a charity day which this year will be held at the London Golf Club in aid of the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust. They have been made to feel welcome wherever they have played.

"We cannot say that racism does not exist because we know it exists in all sports, just as it does in life in general," Odey said, "but we have never found it a hindrance. There is the usual sort of covert stuff, but that is the negative aspect of it. We like to focus on the positive and since we formed this society we have had nothing but positive feedback from everywhere we have been."

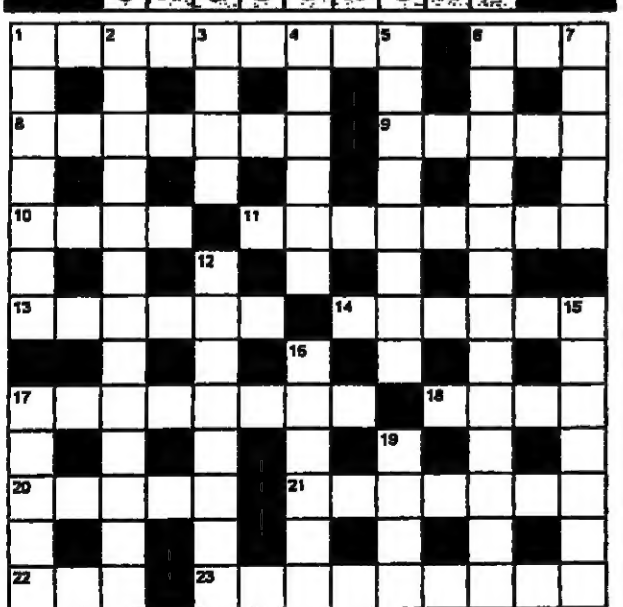
Odey is fairly typical of the membership. A structural engineer with English Heritage, he had played cricket and football at a decent level but never thought that he would ever play golf until a colleague gave him a seven-iron and they went into a field to hit a few balls. He took to it straight away and now plays off a handicap of 11.

"That is the way most of us would have got into the game, purely by chance," he said, "and that is what has got to change. The future in all sports is with youth, which is why we are working towards an academy, probably based in Lambeth, even before Tiger Woods came along."

"The role-model thing is crucially important, but we would not want the whole of black golf to be built around Tiger Woods. It is important for us to start something that will last and change the whole cultural outlook of the Afro-Caribbean community in the country. The academy will definitely come about and we will be hoping to launch it later this year."

And is there a British Tiger Woods out there? "Well, he is a bit special, isn't he?" Odey said. "We would just like to introduce golf to as many young people as possible and hope that there is a future champion among them."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1146

- ACROSS**
- 1 Follower, servant (9)
 - 6 Primate copy (3)
 - 8 Patient in adversity (7)
 - 9 Fasten again (5)
 - 10 André — Fr. Nobel author (4)
 - 11 Mus. setting of OT book (8)
 - 13 Very high standards (6)
 - 14 Gender discrimination (6)
 - 17 Air of magical skill (8)
 - 18 Stare steadily (4)
 - 20 New Zealand (5)
 - 21 Give one's word (7)
 - 22 Assistance (3)
 - 23 Baptismal sponsor (9)

- DOWN**
- 1 African wooden spear (7)
 - 2 One cutting both ways (metaph.) (5-5)
 - 3 Cut lightly; steal (4)
 - 4 Eventually (2,4)
 - 5 Exciting story (8)
 - 6 Official; commanding (13)
 - 7 Foe (5)
 - 12 Swinging wildly (8)
 - 15 Film actress; life jacket (3,4)
 - 16 Leapt (6)
 - 17 Green, black snake (5)
 - 19 Sentence (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1145

ACROSS: 7 Floor 8 Oedipus 9 Current 10 Parka
11 Thin 12 Affected 15 Monarchy 16 Wisp 19 Kudos
21 Account 22 Derrick 23 Wrath
DOWN: 1 Offcut 2 Coercion 3 Creep 4 Adapted 5 Spar
6 Island 8 Out of the Ark 13 Tribunal 14 Prussia 15 Make
do 17 Patchy 18 Seowl 20 Darn

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